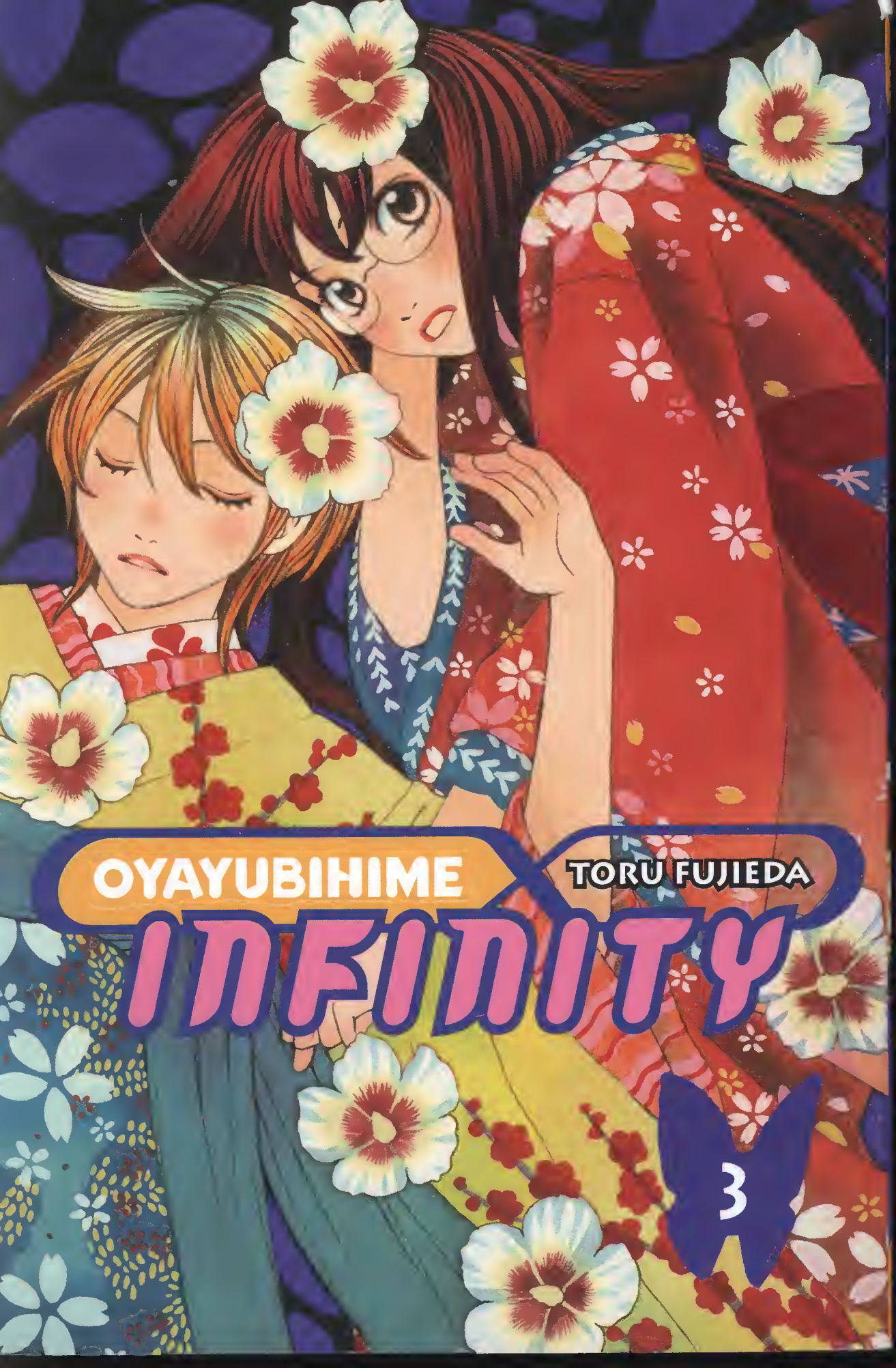
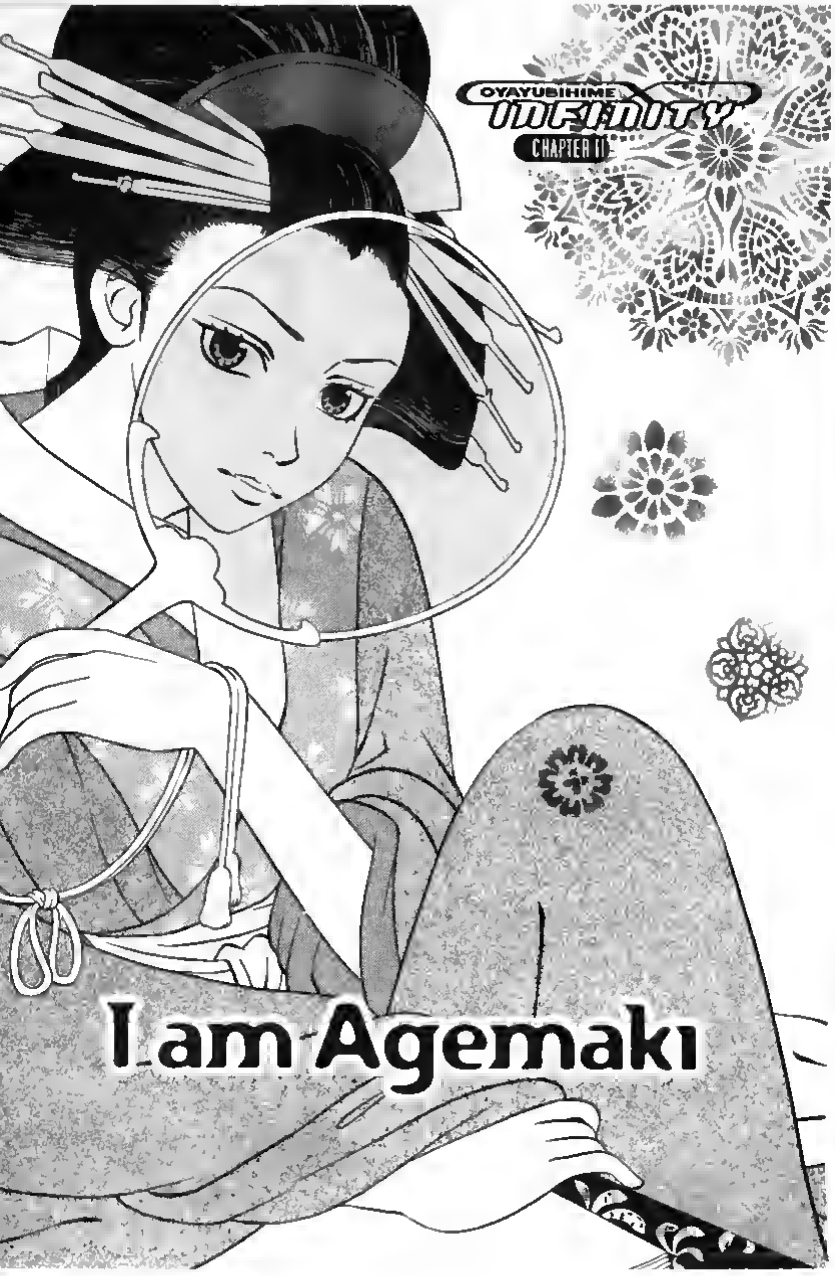
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA,
BUY YOUR COPY TODAY!!
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC.


OYAYUBIHIME
TORU FUJIEDA
INFINITY
3

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY

Volume 3

By Toru Fujieda



OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
Volume:3

READ MAIL
[SUBJECT]

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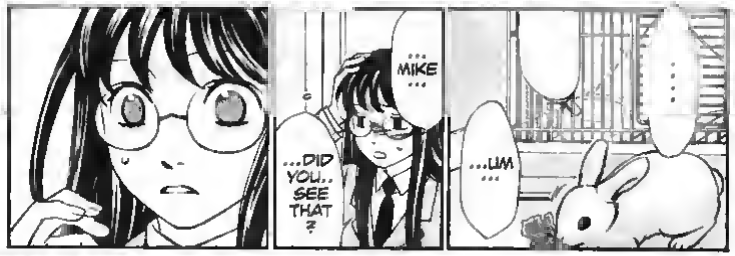
THE STORY SO FAR

KANOKO AND MAYU ARE THE DAUGHTERS OF A FAMOUS ACTRESS SO HER BIG SISTER CAN BECOME A STAR. KANOKO CREATES A CHARACTER NAMED "MAYA" THOUGH THEIR FATHERS ARE DIFFERENT BOTH KANOKO AND MAYU SHARE THE SAME BIRTHMARK ON THEIR THUMBS. AND THEN, ONE DAY, THE MOST POPULAR GUY IN SCHOOL TSUBAME, NOTICES KANOKO'S BIRTHMARK AND WON'T STOP BOTHERING HER ABOUT BEING HIS "DESTINED LOVE." HE SAYS THE BIRTHMARK IS A SIGN OF A PROMISE HE MADE IN A PREVIOUS LIFE WITH A GIRL NAMED "AGEMAKI." THOUGH AT FIRST SHE FINDS TSUBAME QUITE UNPLEASANT, AFTER ENCOUNTERING A GIRL NAMED KIKI AND GETTING TO KNOW A LITTLE MORE ABOUT TSUBAME, SHE REALIZES HER TRUE FEELINGS FOR HIM AND THEN MAYU LEARNS ABOUT HER OWN PAST, IS SHOCKED, AND RUNS AWAY, SO KANOKO DECIDES TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE EVENTS OF THE PAST LIFE ONCE AND FOR ALL



Character Guide: #8

Isana Katagiri

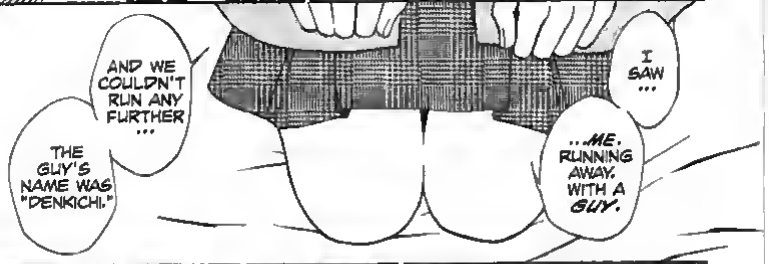
The manager of Mayu Himemiya (aka Maya Yuuki). He might look like a doofus, though he's really a sweet guy who cares a lot about Mayu and Kanoko. He is 32 and still single Maybe because he works too much?

Birthday: 10/5
Blood Type: o

THERE'S NO WAY I COULD BE AGEMAKI.
NO-- THERE'S JUST NO WAY.
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THERE'S NO WAY THAT WAS MY PAST LIFE...

HEY, MAYA-CHAN ~~
CLICK
C'MON, LET'S GO OUT TO EAT.

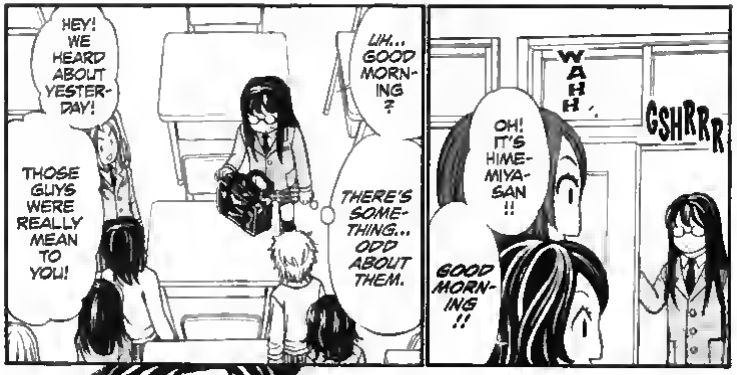
...DID YOU... SEE SOMETHING ?
WH- WHAT'S WRONG ?
..... NOTHING.


I SAW ...
..ME, RUNNING AWAY, WITH A GUY.
AND WE COULDN'T RUN ANY FURTHER ...
THE GUY'S NAME WAS "DENKICHI."

HEY, HIME-MIYA ~~
SZK
I-- I'M SORRY !!
FWOOSH
THERE'S JUST NO WAY ...
AND HE CALLED ME...
HE CALLED ME...
"AGE-MAKI ..."

HEY, MAYA-CHAN ...
YOU KEEP TALKING ABOUT YOUR "PAST LIFE--"
I'M A LITTLE JEALOUS.
KANE--
LOOK AT ME SOME MORE ...
WE CAN FINALLY BE TOGETHER ...
I MEAN, WE'RE ALL ALONE ...

I DON'T CARE.
WHAT ABOUT YOUR WORK?
MAYA-CHAN, DON'T YOU THINK YOUR FAMILY IS WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
IN MY PAST LIFE, IT WAS SO MUCH PRETTIER ...
LOOK AT THAT MOON!
AND YET ...
I WAS ALWAYS SO AFRAID ...
I SO WANTED TO HAVE THE SAME BUTTERFLY MARK LIKE... HER...
SEE, BACK THEN, THINGS WERE SO DIFFERENT THERE WERE NOT SO MANY PEOPLE, LESS LIGHT.
ON NIGHTS WHEN THERE WAS NO MOON, IT WAS SO DARK AND SCARY.

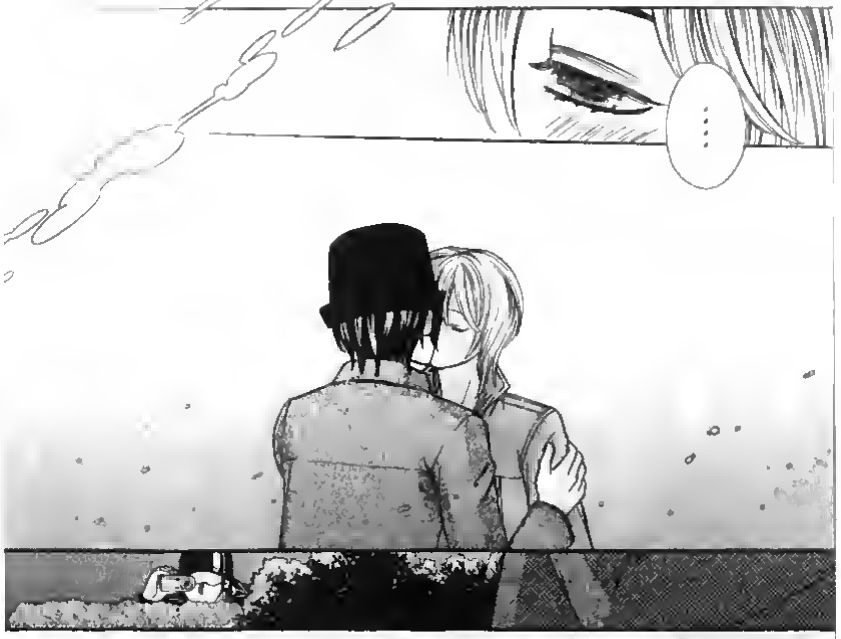

HEY! WE HEARD ABOUT YESTERDAY!
THOSE GUYS WERE REALLY MEAN TO YOU!
UH.. GOOD MORNING ?
THERE'S SOMETHING... ODD ABOUT THEM.

WAH
GSHRRR
OH! IT'S HIME-MIYA-SAN !!
GOOD MORN-ING !!

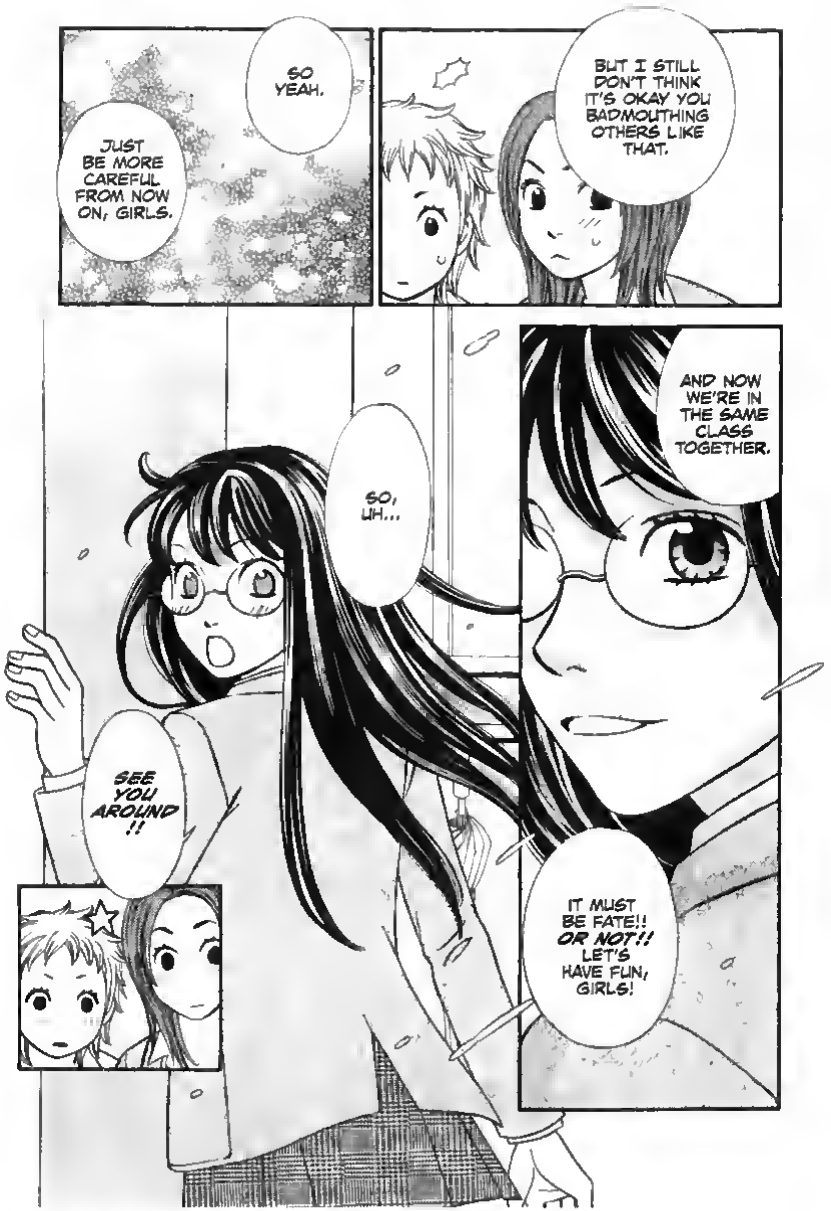
WE HEARD ABOUT IT! THAT MUST HAVE BEEN AWE-SOME!!
CAN'T I DO ANYTHING WRONG ?
SO, THEY WOULD TRY TO PICK ON ME AGAIN.

HOOO
YESTER-DAY ...?
OH!!
YES, YES, YESTERDAY. I JUMPED OUT OF A SECOND FLOOR WINDOW, DIDN'T I?

BULLIES!!
They don't deserve Tsubame at all !!
YEAH! THOSE GIRLS ARE REALLY CHILDISH !!
OH?
YEAH!
WE'RE TOTALLY NOT HANGING OUT WITH THEM ANYMORE! TOTALLY!!


...

MORNING!!
DID YOU TURN IN YOUR REPORT ?


SO YEAH.
JUST BE MORE CAREFUL FROM NOW ON, GIRLS.
BUT I STILL DON'T THINK IT'S OKAY YOU BADMOUTHING OTHERS LIKE THAT.
AND NOW WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER.
SO, UH...
IT MUST BE FATE!! OR NOT!! LET'S HAVE FUN, GIRLS!
SEE YOU AROUND !!

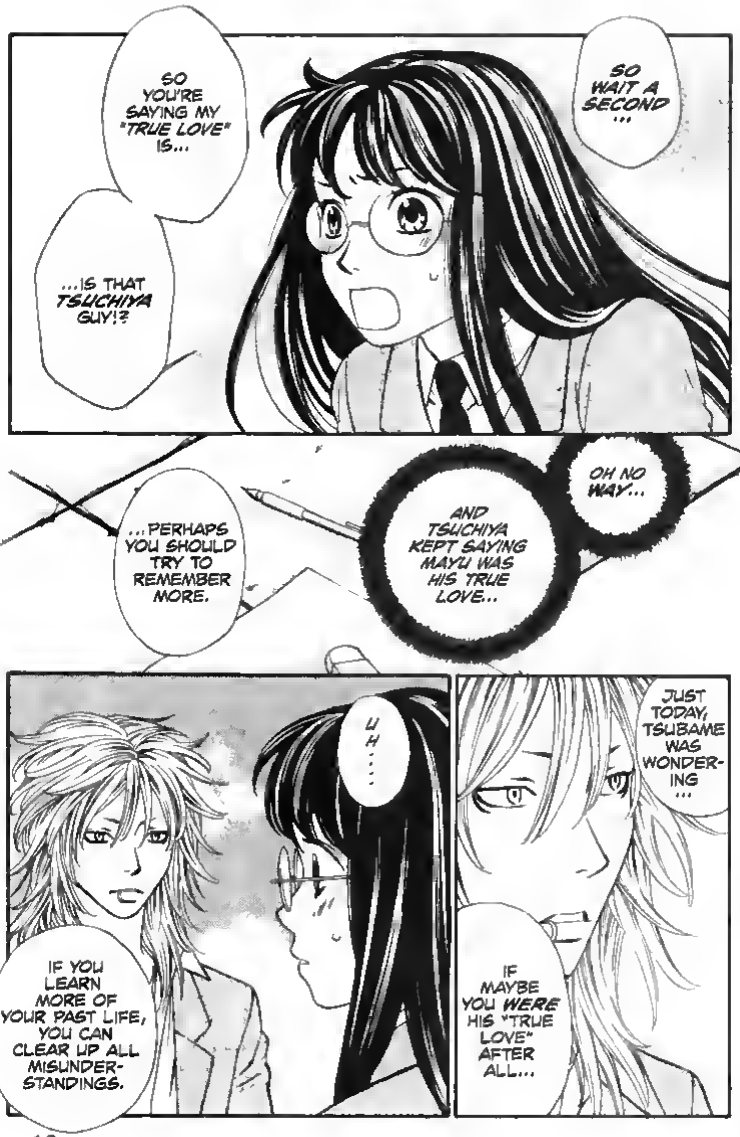
AHAHA
WELL! WELL! WELL!
[KIKI]
That girl with the big boobs is still kinda scary, though. Yeah, she's somewhat? threatening?
OH... UH...
YEAH, EVERYONE HATES THEM NOW !!
HIMEMIYA, PLEASE ACCEPT OUR APOLOGY FOR BEING MEAN TO YOU AND CALLING YOU A BUNCH OF TERRIBLE NAMES BEHIND YOUR BACK.
I GUESS THAT JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU HOW POPULAR OUR TSUBAME IS!!
YEAHH
HE'S A MAN WHO DRIVES A WOMAN TO CRIME !!
....
NOTHING TARNISHES THIS GUY'S IMAGE.
Well! I'm not doing anything bad, you know!!
He doesn't get it
HEEE
... YOU KNOW.
I WAS PRETTY MEAN TO YOU GUYS, TOO. SO, UH, SORRY.
HO HO HO
LIKE A COUPLE OF SAILORS !!
YOU SHOULD HEAR THEM TALKING IN THE REST-ROOM!
YEAH, THEY ACT ALL CUTE IN FRONT OF GUYS, THOUGH, MAN...
ANYWAY, WE'VE REALLY HAD IT WITH THOSE TWO!

I WAS THINKING.. MAYBE SHE REALLY IS AGEMAKI?
IT'S ABOUT KANOKO ...
UM, WELL ...
It's gone !!
...SO WHAT DO YOU WANT ?
KIKI TOLD ME, SEE...
...THAT KANOKO'S "BOYFRIEND" WAS JUST SOMETHING SHE MADE UP.
AND I GET THE FEELING LATELY THAT SHE'S...I DUNNO, AVOIDING ME AGAIN ?
YOU THINK... MAYBE SHE HATES ME?

I'M SO EMBARRASSED I'M ITCHY ALL OVER!!
"It must be fate?" Eww!
OH MY GOD.
WHAT THE HECK AM I SAYING ?
...UM.
DO YOU RECALL HER ALWAYS BEING LIKE THIS?
ISN'T SHE, UM... KIND OF..
TOTALLY COOL ?!
WHY DO YOU HAVE THAT BANDANNA ON YOUR HEAD?
HEY, MIKE...
Touch him !
Touch him !!
Go Tsubame!!
WHAT?
Kyaa Kyaa
YOU SHOULD LET YOUR HAIR BE FREE!! FREE TO BE SEXY!!
YAAAAAH!
HEY MIKE-CHAA-AAN ??

WHY DID YOU LEAVE YESTERDAY?
YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PAST LIFE?
I... I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST...
I STILL HAVE NO IDEA WHAT MAYU SAW, THOUGH...
UH...
SURE.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY EXPLAINING IT TO ME?
YOUR SISTER ISN'T BACK YET?
DIDN'T YOU WANT TO FIND OUT WHY SHE RAN AWAY?

YOUR "AGEMAKI" LOOKS... DIFFERENT.
WHAT IS?
And you're pretty good at drawing...
THAT'S STRANGE...
Agemaki
IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE, I USED TO WORK AT THE SAME INN AS AGEMAKI...
THE AGEMAKI I KNEW HAD A DIFFERENT FACE...A DIFFERENT WAY OF TYING UP HER HAIR...
AND I NEVER HEARD OF THIS "DENKICHI" FELLOW.
THE AGEMAKI I KNEW DIDN'T DIE WITH "DENKICHI..."
SO ARE YOU SAYING WHAT I SAW WASN'T... MY "PAST LIFE?"
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING.


SO YOU'RE SAYING MY "TRUE LOVE" IS...
...IS THAT TSUCHIYA GUY!?
SO WAIT A SECOND ...
...PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TRY TO REMEMBER MORE.
AND TSUCHIYA KEPT SAYING MAYU WAS HIS TRUE LOVE..
OH NO WAY...
IF YOU LEARN MORE OF YOUR PAST LIFE, YOU CAN CLEAR UP ALL MISUNDER-STANDINGS.
UH....
IF MAYBE YOU WERE HIS "TRUE LOVE" AFTER ALL...
JUST TODAY, TSUBAME WAS WONDER-ING ...

YOUR PREVIOUS LIFE...
IS ONE OF THOSE AGEMAKIS...
ANOTHER AGEMAKI ...??
...YOU'RE SAYING THAT ONLY MY NAME AND BIRTHMARK ARE THE SAME?
SO, UM...
YES.
FROM THE INFOR-MATION I GATHERED ...
TSUBAME'S "SUKEROKU" WAS IN LOVE WITH A PROSTITUTE NAMED "AGEMAKI," OF THE KYOTO DISTRICT, IN THE EDO PERIOD*.
YET, THE NAME "AGEMAKI"...
...HAD BEEN PASSED DOWN TO GIRLS OF SUCCEEDING ERAS, IN THE YOSHIWARA.

*Edo Period: In Japanese history, lasting from app 1603-1867

...OH...
...SO MIKE...
FLASH
...YOU LOVED TSUBAME, TOO...
...THAT'S IT...
AAAAA
HE NEVER ONCE GLANCED MY WAY...

AND MIKE--
--WHY ARE YOU SO AGAINST HIS SEARCH FOR HIS "TRUE LOVE?"
HE WAS THE ONE WHO GOT ME INVOLVED IN ALL THIS...
WH--WHAT THE HECK...
"MIS-UNDER-STAND-INGS?"
YESTERDAY--YOU WERE CRYING!!
IS IT BECAUSE...
...IN THE PAST LIFE, AGEMAKI TOOK TSUBAME FROM YOU?
NO, IT ISN'T THAT.
HE...
...HE ONLY HAD EYES FOR AGEMAKI.

I HAVE NO DESIRE
...TO SEE LORD SAKAKIBARA.

IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE IN LOVE WITH ME, RIGHT?
YOU'RE SO BEAUTIFUL
DEN KICHI
I HEARD ABOUT THE LORD'S OFFER
WELL THEN
LET'S SEE

AND THAT OTHER MAN WAS SUCH A GENTLEMAN
THOUGHT YOU HATED HIM?
OH, NO.
THE VISION AGAIN.
I HEAR SHE RECEIVED AN INVITATION FROM THE LORD YESTERDAY
SO ANYWAY
DID YOU HEAR ?
AGEMAKI
ARE YOU SAYING TWO THOUSAND RYO* IS NOT ENOUGH?
I HEAR THE HIMSELF FAVORS HER!
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M SAYING
ABOUT AGEMAKI OF THE MIURAYA
*RYO IS THE FORM OF CURRENCY USED IN THE EDO PERIOD.

WELL, YOU'D CERTAINLY NEED A DIFFERENT HAIRSTYLE, AS WELL!
HEY!!
MY PRECIOUS LITTLE HARUNO AND YUMEJI
YOU'RE SO KIND TO ME...
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST GIRL IN ALL OF YOSHIWARA F...
I WISH I WAS BORN WITH A FACE LIKE YOURS !!
YOU'RE THE PRETTIEST PERSON EVER!!
AND I...
NO LONGER WISH TO BE KEPT
AND THAT IS WHY I MUST LEAVE THIS PLACE...
THOUGH NO MATTER HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY MAY SAY I AM...
I AM MERELY A BIRD IN A CAGE

YOU
IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO SAY I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, AND MEAN IT
THEN I WANT YOU TO BE A MAN AND STEAL ME AWAY, FAR AWAY FROM THIS PLACE
I FIXED YOU SOME TEA
HERE
HEY, WHY DIDN'T YOU GO TO SAKAKIBARA, HUH?
WELL, I DON'T CARE. I'M GLAD YOU'RE STAYING!!
GAH
SOUGH

WE MUST STAY LOW
ALL RIGHT— NOW
CLIMB UP HERE
HARUNO... YUMEJI...

HEY... DOES THIS MEAN WE WON'T SEE YOU ANYMORE...?!?!
SOMEDAY, YES
HERE GIVE ME YOUR HAND
I WISH I COULD
YOU HAVE TO STAY WITH US FOREVER!!
NO!! DON'T!!
SEE THIS? I SWEAR BY THIS BUTTERFLY...
THAT I WILL NEVER, NEVER DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOU SAD

I WANTED THE POWER TO..
FLY.. AWAY FROM... HERE.
...DREAMING OF A PLACE NO ONE WOULD FIND ME...
SO ...
THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
I...
"I"...
...MIKE.
I WANTED TO SEE THE OUTSIDE.
...I LONGED FOR THE POWER TO STAND ON MY OWN...

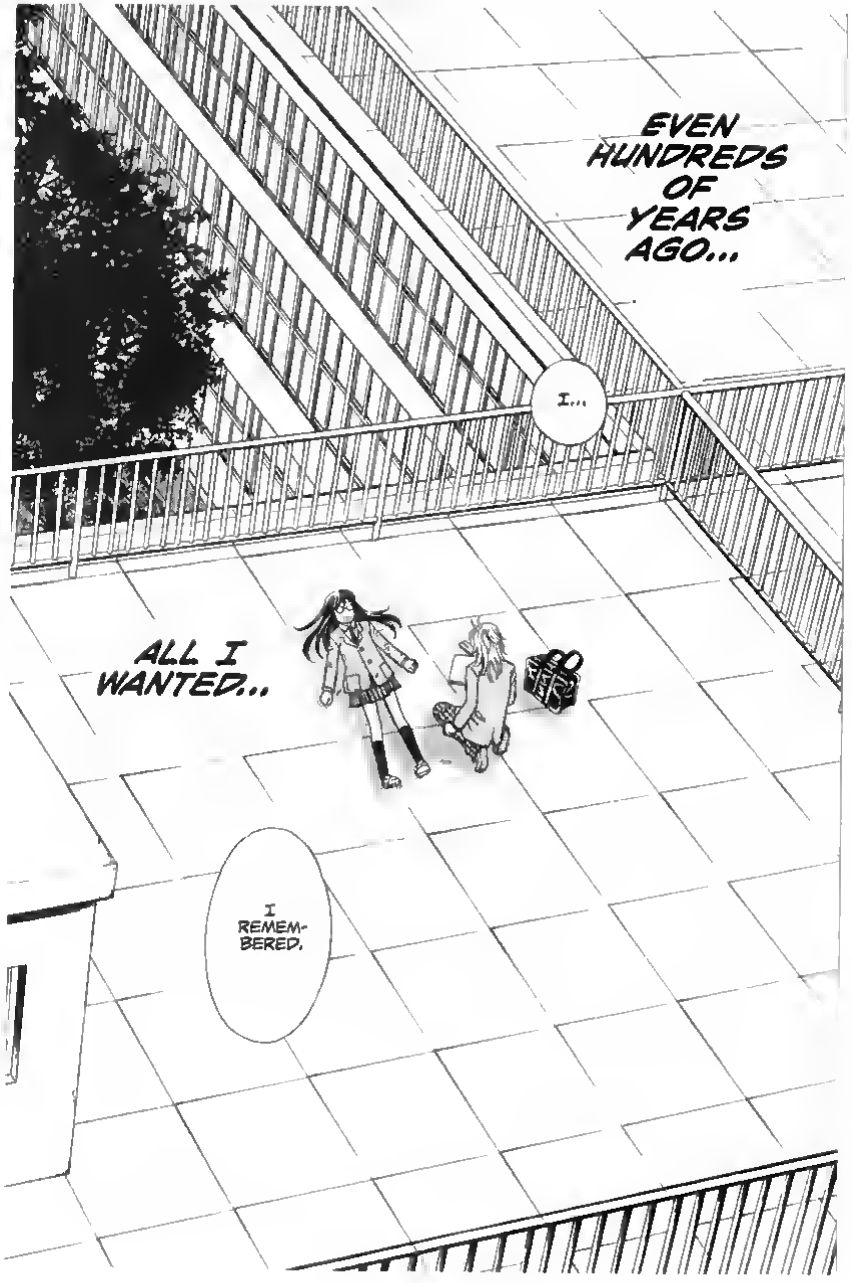
#11
FLASH
FORGIVE ME
YET I... I WANT TO SEE THE OUTSIDE...
I BROKE MY PROMISE
WHATEVER HAVE I DONE...

...TSUBAME!!

OH--

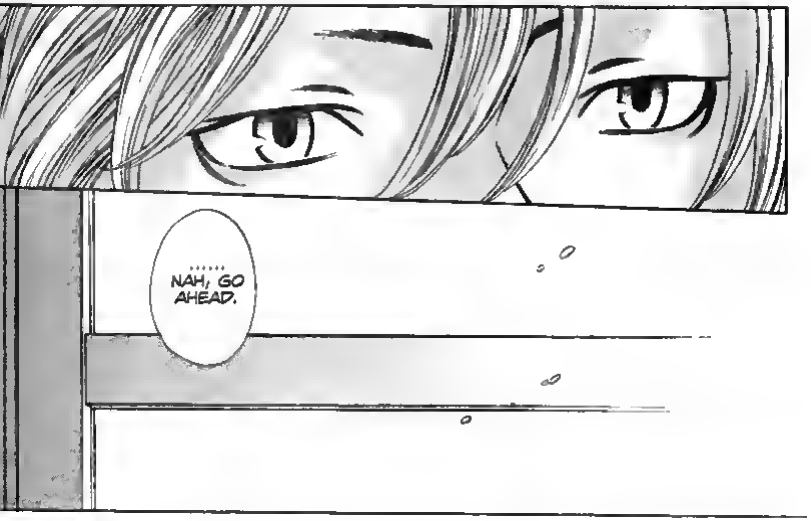
KA-NOKO--MIKE...
UM...
...IS IT ABOUT THE "PAST LIFE?"

...WAS TO BE FREE


EVEN HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO...
I...
ALL I WANTED...
I REMEMBERED.

I...
...I KINDA...
REALLY LIKE WHAT YOU DID TO MY NAILS.
DO YOU, UM...
...THINK YOU COULD PAINT THEM AGAIN SOMETIME?
DING DONG DING DONG
TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA, YEAR ONE, CLASS TWO, PLEASE REPORT TO THE STAFF ROOM IMMEDIATELY!!
UH-OH-- THAT SOUNDS KINDA SERIOUS... MY TEACHER IS CALLING ME.
UH... UH...
...OF COURSE!!

OH..
MIKE AND I... CHECKED JUST NOW.
I WAS "AGEMAKI" IN A WHOLE DIFFERENT ERA, TSUBAME... I'M SORRY...
TSU-BAME... WELL... UM...
YOU SEE, TSUBAME ...I... WASN'T REALLY YOUR "TRUE LOVE."
A... DIF-FERENT AGE-MAKI?
ARE YOU... SURE?
YES.
SO...
...I CAN'T POSSIBLY BE YOUR "TRUE LOVE"...
...
WELL, THEN.
THOUGH, UM...


.....
NAH, GO AHEAD.

SHOW-TIME!!

HEY..
MIKE ...?
...EVEN IF I'M NOT HIS "TRUE LOVE"...
EVEN IF I'M NOT THE ONE HE'S LOOKING FOR...
...IF I... KIND OF LIKED HIM?
WOULD IT BE WRONG ...

...HEY
SO...
WOULDN'T IT BE FUNNY, IF SHE WAS ALREADY MY GIRLFRIEND?
CLOSE TO FINDING HER?
WELL... UM...
...NO... NOT REALLY!
WHAAAT?
THE HECK YOU TALKIN' ABOUT, KID?
WELL, UM, I WONDER, WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE?
HAH HAH
I S'POSE I'D PROBABLY BE CRYIN'!!
ANYWAY, WE CAN DISCUSS THESE HYPOTHETICAL THINGS LATER.
YOU JUST COME ON WITH ME NOW!!
YES, SIR.
SO ANYWAY...
ANYWAY, YEAH, SHUN, YOU JUST GO AHEAD AND HAVE DINNER ON ME.
I CAN DO THAT!
SO WHAT DO YA FEEL LIKE?
MAN, Y'ALL DON'T GOTTA TELL ME NO MORE.
I KNOW I GOT A PUNCTUALITY PROBLEM.
YO.
EVERYBODY'S HERE ALREADY.
I WAS WONDERING-- ARE YOU STILL SEARCHING FOR HER?
YOUR "TRUE LOVE?"
HM?
YEAH.
WELL...

KIKI...
...I THINK I UNDERSTAND IT ALL NOW.
ONCE I KNEW HOW THE WORLD WORKED...
...I GAVE UP ON EVERY-THING.
IN THE PREVIOUS LIFE, I ACTUALLY MADE AN ATTEMPT TO RUN AWAY...
YET ...
TODAY, I DIDN'T EVEN TRY ANY-THING...
"I WANT TO BE FREE..."
AND... EVEN IN THE PAST LIFE...
...I WANTED THE SAME THING.
HMM...?

AND? AND? WHAT WAS IT LIKE? YOU KNOW, THE PAST LIFE?
Did anything NUTS happen?
YES, YES
WELL, UH, LET'S SEE...
...I ELOPED WITH THAT TSUCHIYA GUY, AND...
...HUH?
YOU WERE... ANOTHER AGEMAKI?
ONE WHO WASN'T TSUBAME'S "TRUE LOVE?"
NO WAY!!
YOU'RE KIDDING!!
YOU NEED TO GET SOME NEW TASTES, GIRL
IT WAS VERY CLEAR TO ME:
I THOUGHT, "THIS IS ME."
UM, ACTUALLY ...

Scoop; scandal

CHAPTER 11 END

WOW, HE'S SO HOT.
HEY, HEY.
I'll decide who's hot around here.
MAYA YUUKI KISSING KANEKO
WEEKLY CA...
SHUKAN...
W.O.W.
THAT IS INDEED WHAT IT SAYS.
STARS IN LOVE
COME ON, THOUGH ...
...THIS ISN'T LIKE MAYU...
KANEKO (19)
MIDNIGHT
ON THE BRIGHT SIDE, AT LEAST NOW WE KNOW WHERE MAYU IS.
"BOTH OF THEIR AGENCIES COMMENT THAT THEY'RE 'VERY GOOD FRIENDS.'"
KATAGIRI TOLD ME ALL ABOUT THIS ON THE PHONE YESTERDAY.
EVEN SO, ACTUALLY SEEING THE PHOTO IS A BIGGER SHOCK THAN I'D IMAGINED IT'D BE.

OH MY GOD, DID YOU SEE THIS!?
OH NO WAY.
AREN'T THEY IN THAT SPECIAL DRAMA SERIES TOGETHER ?
GRRR!!
THAT KANEKO GUY'S GOT SOME NERVE STEALING MY MAYA !!
IT SAYS "MAYA YUUKI AND KANEKO FROM SPLASH ARE LIVING TOGETHER !!"
UNJI KANEKO (19)
MAYA YUUKI (18)

Character Guide: #9

Ryuu Tschuiya

Birthday: 1/18
Blood Type B

Maya Yuuki's Stalker
Well, It seems like he was in love
with Kanoko in his past life
Yet he believes Maya is his true love.
Hence, you know, the stalker

ALLLLLL RIGHT, GOOD EVENING EVERY-BODY!!
THIS IS YOUR FAAAAV-ORITE SHOW, JP STATION, BRINGING YOU THE NEWEST TUNES!!
KANEKO, WHAT'S WITH THE FINGER?
... HEY, HEY!
WELCOME OUR FIRST GUEST, SPLASH !!
OH, NO. IT'S THAT KANEKO GUY.
THERE HAS TO BE A REASON SHE WON'T COME BACK...
--OH !!
THIS?
IT'S A SIGN OF LOVE BETWEEN ME AND MY GIRLFRIEND !!

I CAN'T LET THIS GET TO ME.
I HAVE TO THINK OF SOME-THING.
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT ...
YOU KNOW, KANOKO, THIS ISN'T YOUR FAULT.
UH... YEAH, I KNOW.
MAN, I FEEL SORRY FOR MAYU.
SHE'S PROBABLY BEING STALKED BY REPORTERS ALL OVER THE PLACE.
SHE MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE IT...
I STILL DON'T KNOW ABOUT MAYA'S "PREVIOUS LIFE" ...
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M NOT TSUBAME'S "AGEMAKI" ...
WHAT DID MAYU SEE...?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
I HEAR SPLASH IS GOING TO BE ON TV TONIGHT ...

HE... DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT IT...
I...
IT'S... MAYA YUUKI?
EXCUSE ME!!
OH--
OH, MAN. PHONE CAM-ERAS ...
THEY'RE TAKING MY PICTURE WITH CAMERA PHONES!
KYA...
I'M A REPORTER WITH "WEEKLY CATCH."
EXCUSE ME ...
YOU'RE MAYA YUUKI, RIGHT?

WHAT THE HECK.
WHERE THE HECK DID HE GET THAT BUTTERFLY?
OH NO ...
KANEKO...
WHERE DID THAT MARK COME FROM...?
!
YOUR... GIRL-FRIEND!?
OH, YES.
HEY, NOW, ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO--
WHY DON'T YOU, UH, SING A SONG FOR US!!

REAL ESTAT
HAVE YOU READ THIS ARTICLE?
THERE WAS A PHOTO-GRAPH OF THE TWO OF YOU KISSING.
UM... NO?
UM...
YOU JUST CAME OUT OF KANEKO'S APARTMENT, YES?
HEY-- WAIT UP! MAYA!!
CAN YOU CONFIRM FOR US THAT YOU TWO ARE DATING?
SOMEONE WAS...
...WATCHING US?
WHAT IS GOING ON HERE?
48
NO WAY...
SO EVERYONE KNOWS I'M STAYING AT KANEKO'S HOUSE?
WHAT DO I DO...?!
HEY GUYS, COME ON, LET'S SAVE THIS FOR LATER...
YOU AIN'T GOT NO IDEA WHAT THIS THING'S REALLY A SIGN OF!!
WHAT THE NECK YOU THINK YOU'RE DOIN'?
YES, I DO.
49

Hello everyone.
It seems we've already reached volume 3 of Oyayubihime Infinity. The characters are developing, and the artist is happy.

★

I have a tattoo, myself. And yes, it is on my thumb. Or, rather, you could say I have many tattoos on all of my fingers.

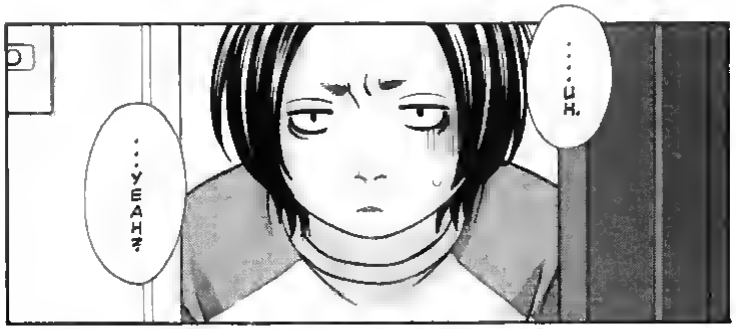
Yes, I self-tattoo.
The method involves being absent-minded and leaving the caps off your darn fountain pens and sitting them pointy-end up in the cup on your desk and then reaching for a pen while staring at the manga you're drawing.

I've done this about twelve times, myself. Yeah, I guess I'm almost ready to quit manga and join the yakuza.

SO THAT'S IT...
WOW...
IT'S ALL ABOUT "MAYA"...

YES, HE SAID SO ON THAT MUSIC PROGRAM YESTERDAY...

NOW ALL THESE MORONS ARE TALKING ABOUT MAYA'S BIRTHMARK LIKE THEY HAVE THE RIGHT !!
"IT'S THE SIGN OF LOVE BETWEEN MAYA AND KANEKO!! ♥" MAKES ME SICK!!
OH!
DID YOU HEAR THE LIES HE SPREADS ON NATIONAL TELE-VISION ?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS KANEKO GUY !!

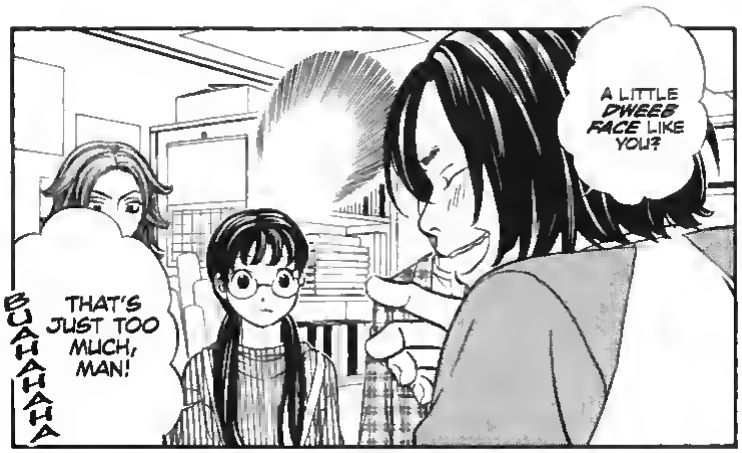

...H.
...YEAH?

...A LITTLE BIT.
MAN, HOW MUCH DID THIS ALL COST YOU?!
YOUR ROOM IS JUST FULL OF MAYA GOODS!!
WOW! LOOK AT ALL THIS !!

MAYA
...IT'S MAYA...
Hey! Hey! Don't touch that one!!
YOU KNOW, I DON'T REALLY WANT YOU GUYS IN HERE TO BEGIN WITH!!
WELL, THEN, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE OPENED THE DOOR !!

SEE, "AGEMAKI" IS...
...ME.
IT WAS YOU AND I WHO COMMITTED LOVERS' SUICIDE.
MAYA--
EVEN IF SHE HAS THE MARK, SHE'S NOT AGEMAKI.
SO YOU CAN STOP STALKING HER NOW.
WHAT?

THAT KANEKO IS PULLING ONE OVER ON HER !!
HE'S USING HER!!
THAT WAS A TATTOO, A SIGN OF A PACT BETWEEN HER AND ME, IN THE PAST LIFE!!
SEE...
YOU THINK IT WAS MAYA.
IT'S, UM... NOT WHAT YOU THINK, THOUGH.
...OH YEAH?
YES. ABOUT YOUR "TRUE LOVE" IN THE "PREVIOUS LIFE."
...ACTUALLY, TSUCHIYA
THAT'S WHAT WE CAME HERE TO TALK ABOUT.


A LITTLE DWEEB FACE LIKE YOU?
BUAHAHAHA
THAT'S JUST TOO MUCH, MAN!

WELL!!
HEY, HEY!! YOU BETTER WATCH IT, BUDDY!!
YOU'RE THE REAL DWEEB FACE!! THE ORIGINAL DWEEB FACE, EVEN!!

BAM!!
MAYA IS MINE!!
HEY!
NOW GET OUTTA MY HOUSE!!
GO!!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME!! YOU REALLY CAN'T!!
...SHUT UP!!

AND...
WHEN I WAS AGEMAKI...
...WELL, I'M SORRY.
...I DIDN'T KILL MYSELF BECAUSE I WAS IN LOVE WITH YOU...

heh heh heh
WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SAYING?
I WILL APOLOGIZE IN HER PLACE.
I JUST...
...WANTED TO SEE THE WORLD OUTSIDE THE RED-LIGHT DISTRICT...
YOU...
...ARE AGEMAKI?
...UM, OKAY.
SO, HOLD UP.

I MEAN, USUALLY FAMOUS COUPLES DON'T JUST GO ON TV AND TALK ABOUT IT LIKE THAT.
AND IT'S SO WEIRD THAT THE HOST TALKED ABOUT THAT BIRTHMARK RIGHT AWAY ...
...ALMOST LIKE THEY PLANNED TO HAVE IT RECOGNIZED AS A "SYMBOL OF LOVE."
HE'S RIGHT ...
AND MAYA DEFINITELY WOULDN'T HAVE AGREED TO THAT ...
OR MAYBE ...
...THIS SCANDAL IS JUST MEANT TO CREATE INTEREST IN THE NEW DRAMA?
NO WAY !!
YEAH, I MEAN. IF THEY REALLY LIKED EACH OTHER ...
HE'D TELL HER TO GO BACK HOME, WOULDN'T HE?
MAN, SHOWBIZ IS REALLY TRICKY ...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU ALL OF A SUDDEN ?
HEY...
NOTHING... I JUST ALWAYS LIKED SPLASH A LOT TO BEGIN WITH.
Am I supposed to force myself to hate them now?

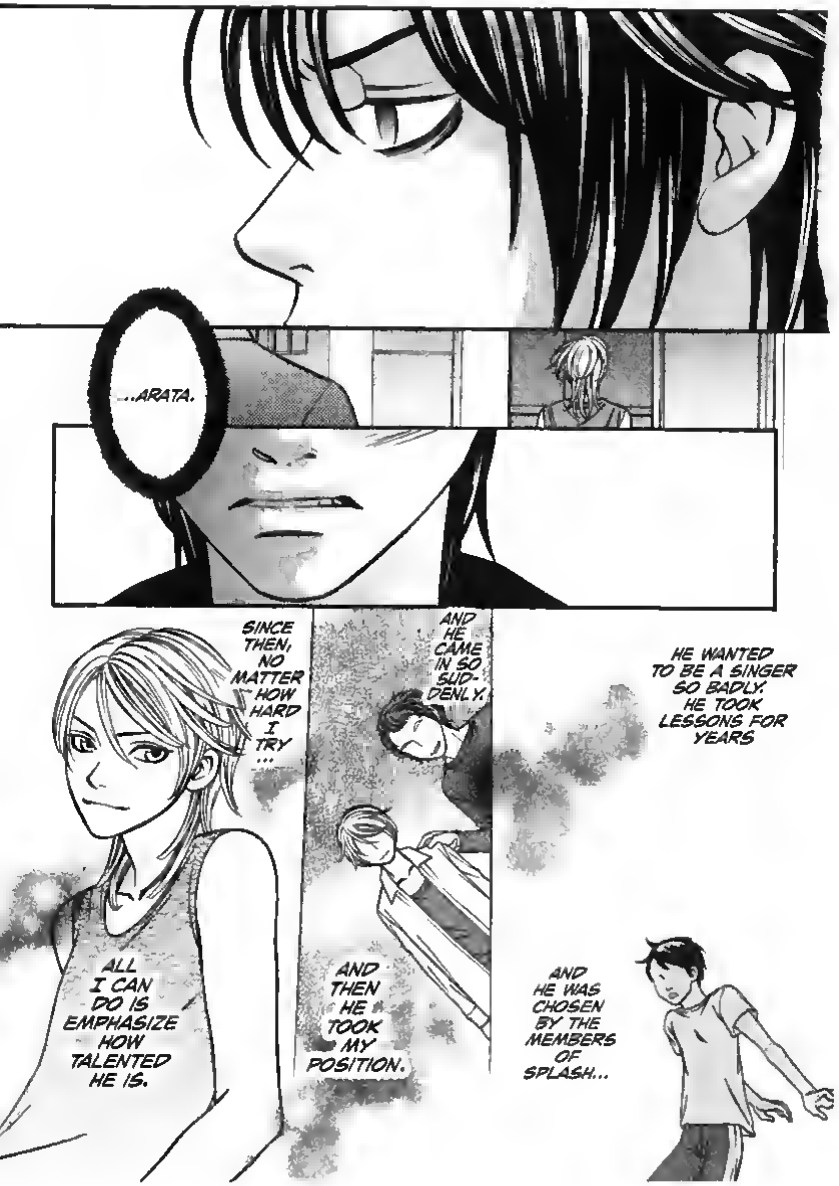
AHHHHH...
MAN !! WHAT A LOSER !!
LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT KICKED OUT.
I MEAN, WE COULDN'T REALLY EXPECT HIM TO BELIEVE ...
...THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME WAS AGEMAKI ...
WELL, IT DOESN'T MATTER.
KANOKO !!
I WILL NOT PERMIT FURTHER SELF DEPRECATION OUT OF YOU!!
S-SORRY !!
COME ON, WHEN YOU REALLY THINK ABOUT IT..
Mama and Maya are both so gorgeous
ANYWAY...
TSUCHIYA'S COMMENTS MIGHT NOT BE TOO FAR OFF THE MARK...
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KAZAMI !?
NO, SEE, I MEAN ...
...I MEAN, WHAT HE SAID ABOUT MAYA BEING USED BY KANEKO.

...WITH-OUT KNOWING IT...
WHEN I SAW ALL THOSE PICTURES OF "MAYA" IN TSUCHIYA'S APARTMENT, THOUGH, I UNDERSTOOD ...
THIS "MAYA" CHARACTER MAYU IS ACTING ...
...SHE'S ASEMAKI. SHE IS WHO I WAS IN THE PAST LIFE.
...WE'VE BEEN CHASING HER SHADOW.
SHE WAS TRAINING WITH ALL HER MIGHT TO BECOME MAYA...
... THAT'S IT...
THE ONE WHO LOOKED UP TO "MAYA" MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE... WAS MAYU.
AND, OUT-WARDLY, SHE DID BECOME MAYA.
AND.. OH, MY GOD..

TOP-CLASS POPULARITY SINCE THEIR DEBUT THREE YEARS AGO!
SPLASH, A FOUR-BOY IDOL GROUP, CONSISTING OF MEMBERS HISATO, ARATA, KANEKO, AND TAIJU!
OF THE FOUR, KANEKO IS THE GENTLEST, NICEST, AND MOST WELL-LIKED!
THIS JUST SEEMS TOO OUT-THERE FOR MAYU.
THAT COULD BE THE CASE, YES.
Awww, man, and he was my type, too!!
Next time you decide you're into this sort of stuff tell us sooner!
WELL, UH, THAT'S... REALLY NICE.
I'M STILL A FAN OF TAIJU, MYSELF!! ♥
SO YOU'RE SAYING THAT THIS WAS SOME SCHEME CONCOCTED BY KANEKO?
HOW SO?
...WHAT KIND OF GIRL DID WE PERSONALLY THINK WAS "COOL."
MAYU AND I PLANNED IT ALL OUT...
SEE, "MAYA"...
AND THAT TURNED OUT TO BE THE "MAYA" CHARACTER MAYU PLAYS.
SHE'S JUST A CHARACTER I MADE TO HELP MAYU BE STRONG.

NAW, I JUST DON'T THINK SHE'S THE ONE FOR ME, Y'KNOW?
SNICK...
THAT MAYA'S A NICE GIRL, THOUGH...
...I MUST SAY I'M REAL IMPRESSED YOU FOUND HER AND ALL.
...
IN THE END, SHE'D COME TO ME.
SHE WOULDN'T CARE WHO SHE WAS GOING OUT WITH NOW.
SEE, IF SHE WAS REALLY MY "TRUE LOVE"--
SO UH, YEAH, MAN.
THE GIRL I'M LOOKING FOR...
...THERE'S NO WAY IN HECK SHE'D GO OUT WITH A GUY LIKE YOU.

SHE WAS THERE.
...IN THE PAST LIFE...
THE GIRL WHO WANTED TO BE AGEMAKI ...
SHE HAD THE BIRTHMARK, RIGHT?
SO?
SHE'S YOUR "TRUE LOVE..."
...ISN'T SHE?


...ARATA.
SINCE THEN, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY ...
ALL I CAN DO IS EMPHASIZE HOW TALENTED HE IS.
AND HE CAME IN SO SUDDENLY.
AND THEN HE TOOK MY POSITION.
HE WANTED TO BE A SINGER SO BADLY. HE TOOK LESSONS FOR YEARS
AND HE WAS CHOSEN BY THE MEMBERS OF SPLASH...

SHE'D BE...YOU KNOW, TOUGHER THAN THAT.
I TELL YA, SHUN ...
IF YOU GOT SO MUCH FREE TIME TO PLAY PRANKS ON PEOPLE ...
WHY DON'T YOU USE SOME OF THAT EFFORT TO LEARN HOW TO SING OR SOMETHIN'?

I'LL DO WHATEVER I CAN TO HUMILIATE HIM.
HE MAKES ME SICK.
I'LL GET HIM.

THAT'S WHAT HE SAID ...
SORRY, MAYA.
IT'S LATE, KANEKO ...
I THOUGHT IT'D MAKE YOU HAPPY IF WE HAD THE SAME MARK...
I WONDER WHY IT ONLY MADE ME FEEL WORSE...

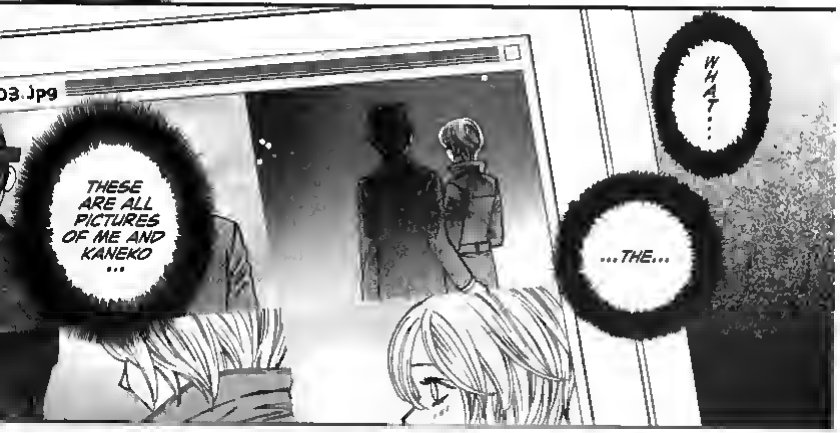
DEEP DOWN INSIDE, HE'S GOT TO KNOW IT HIMSELF.
HE JUST DOESN'T HAVE THE ..THE PRESENCE OF ARATA.
SHUNJI KANEKO ?
THAT GUY SUCKS.

YOU WANNA KNOW WHY I ALWAYS HAVE THIS GLOVE ON MY LEFT HAND?
HEY.
LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.
I'M TIRED OF PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE TO HIM.

DON'T TELL ANYONE, ALL RIGHT ?
SHE'S MY TRUE LOVE !!
I'M LOOKIN' FOR A GIRL WHO HAS THIS SAME BIRTH-MARK !!
LOOK.

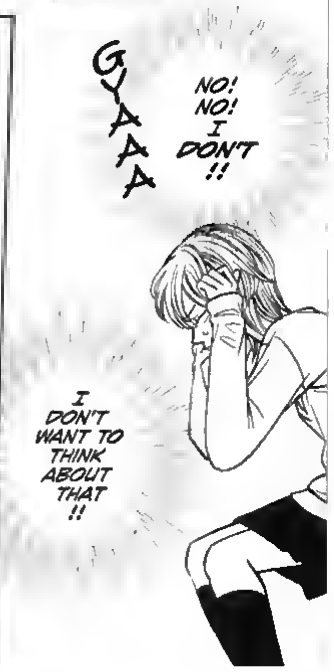
EVEN WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER ON STAGE ...
... THE SPOT-LIGHT ONLY SHINES ON HIM.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT.
HUNM?
THE COMPUTER IS ON...
I DON'T WANT TO SEE WHAT HAP-PENED AFTER THAT ...
SHOOK
HUH...?


03.jpg
THESE ARE ALL PICTURES OF ME AND KANEKO ...
...THE...
WHAT...

SHOCK
I WONDER IF KANOKO IS STILL SEARCH-ING FOR ME RIGHT NOW ...
MAN, I WISH KANOKO WERE HERE ...
IT'S SO LONELY BEING... ALONE.
"YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT, MAYU !!"
"I'M WITH YOU ALL THE WAY !!"

...I GUESS...
I CAN'T TOTALLY HATE HER, THOUGH.
I ALWAYS... NEEDED KANOKO.
AND YET...


GYAAA
NO! NO! I DON'T !!
I DON'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT !!

IT'S AN ENGAGEMENT RING.
MAYA...
...WILL YOU MARRY ME?
CHATTER
CHATTER

!!
KANEKO!
HEY, I'M BACK.
UH...
...UM...
I BOUGHT YOU A PRESENT TODAY.
I HOPE IT FITS.
WHAT IS THIS...
WHY...
...WHO TOOK THESE...
...NOW, NOW. YOU SHOULDN'T BE LOOKING AT THOSE.

MAYA!!
UHOOO
OHH!! IT'S MAYA YUUKI !!
IT SEEMS SHE HAS A RING ON HER RING FINGER !!
OH!! YOU'RE RIGHT!

WE WILL MAKE HIM GIVE MAYA BACK !!
IF YOU SEE KANEKO, I WANT YOU TO GRAB HIM-- WITH EXTREME PREJUDICE !!
WOW... LOOK AT ALL THESE PEOPLE ...
YOU THINK WE'LL ACTUALLY BE ABLE TO GET IN HERE ?
ARE YOU SAYING WE WON'T ??
BOP
...NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHERE'S KANOKO ?
WOW... WOW.
That's... wow
WOWWW!!
THAT'S WHY WE WENT TO KANOKO AND MAYA'S OFFICE TO GET INVITATIONS FOR THIS !!
TODAY IS THE PREMIER OF THE NEW FILM...
IT SEEMS LIKE KANEKO IS SUPPOSED TO COME TODAY, TOO.
OH!! THERE HE IS!!
Where? WHERE?
...UH...
...UH... HANG ON A SECOND, ...ISN'T THAT...

MAYU!!
HELP ME.
WELL!
SEE I GAVE --
KA...
KANOKO?

MAN.. WHAT DO I DO...
SHIVER SHIVER
I HAVE TO BE "MAYA"...
WHAT'S ON YOUR FINGER?!
...UH...
...IT'S, UH ...
EXCUSE ME!! KANEKO-SAN!!
MAYA YUUKI!!
PLEASE, A SHORT INTERVIEW !!
ARE YOU TOGETHER ON THIS LOVELY EVENING?
WAHH!

KANEKO... WHY?
I'M SCARED ...
WHY DID YOU DO THIS?
I CAN'T MOVE..
IT'S SO... STRANGE ...
KANEKO...

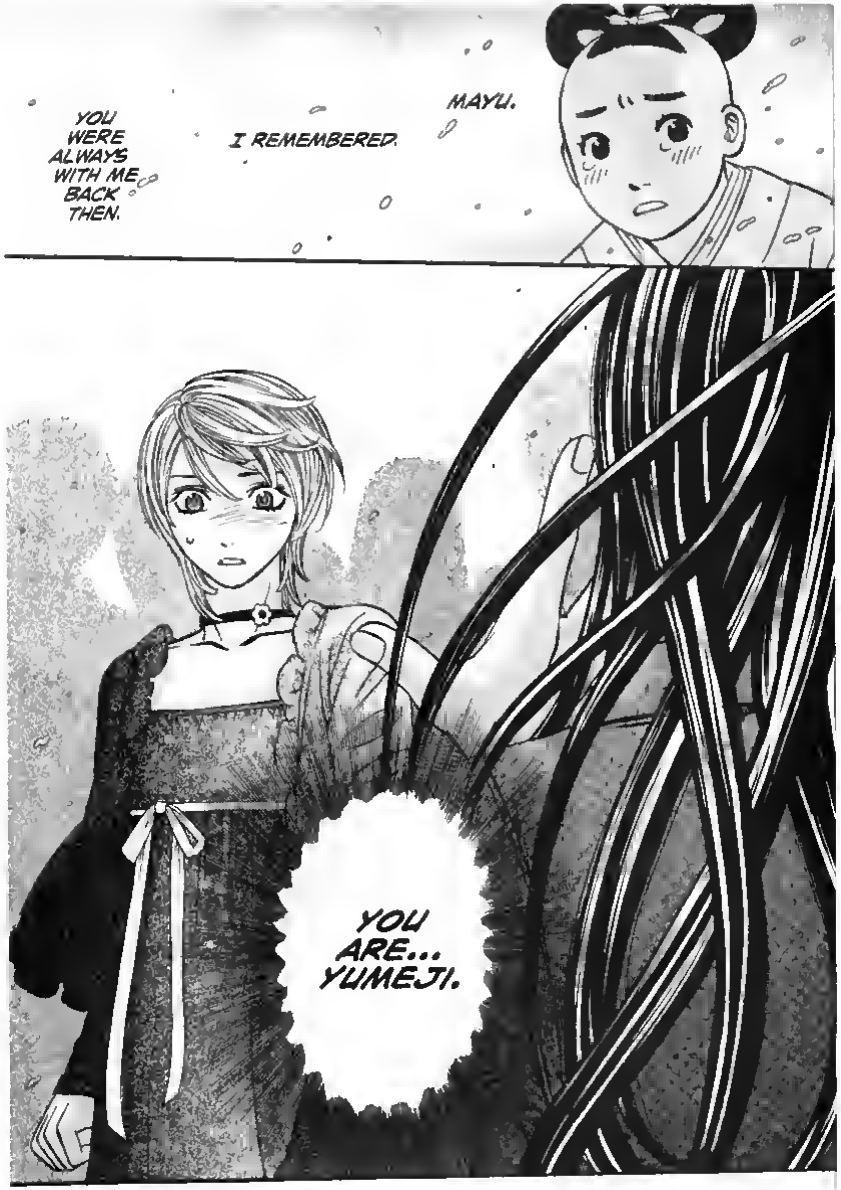
...
YEAH?
...
YUMEJI.

MAYA, WHO IS THAT?
?

...I'M...
MAYA'S SISTER!

DID YOU COME HERE TOGETHER TODAY?
REALLY!?
YOU'RE MAYA'S SISTER?!
...MAYU.

KANO!!
KANO...



CHAPTER 12 END.

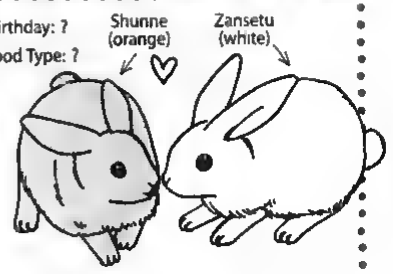
Character Guide #10

Zansetu and Shunne

These are Mike's two rabbits Also called "bunnies." It seems that Mike found them abandoned in the park near his apartment when he first moved there. He grooms and feeds them daily They are both male

Birthday: ?

Blood Type: ?



OH...
...OH, NO...
...NOT AGAIN...
THAT MEMORY...!

M...
...TOMORROW...
SHOOT

ARE YOU AND MAYA QUARRELING?
WAHHH!
YOU, MAYA'S SISTER!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
EXCUSE ME!!
I'D JUST LIKE ONE WORD WITH YOU--
THESE PEOPLE ARE GONNA GO NUTS.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
WAHHH
NO, WAIT-- MY-- GLASSES--
CLINK
BAM
YOU!! MAYA'S SISTER!!
EXCUSE ME!
WAHHH

SLAP
NO!!
I CAN'T GO BACK.
IF YOU REMEMBER, YOU'LL HATE ME!
WAIT, MAYU--
YANK
LET'S GO--
WAIT!!
HEY...

DID YOU SEE THE CELEBRITY NEWS REPORT THIS MORNING?
OH YEAH, I SAW IT!!
CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!?!
chatter chatter
SHRRR
...OH!!
HIME-MIYA-SAN!!

WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO ME?!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I WONDER WHAT THE HECK HE'S UP TO.
MAN OH MAN. WHAT HAP-PENED HERE?
...I... FOUND HER.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
WHY, MAYA?
I CAN'T GO HOME.
MAYU...
WHAT DID YOU SEE?

WE SAID WE WERE LEAVING.
WHAT THE HECK, TSUBAME?
YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!!
DON'T BE MEAN TO KANOKO!!
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
...ISN'T THIS THE GIRL YOU WERE CHASING BEFORE?
NO.
NO NO NO!!
WE GET IT, WE GET IT!!
WHEN THE MISSION'S ACCOMPLISHED, GET US AN AUTOGRAPH, EH?
YOU MUST HAVE KNOWN SHE WAS MAYA'S SISTER!
You're a slick dude!!
I KNEW IT! YOU WERE AFTER HER SISTER ALL ALONG!!

WOW.
THAT'S AMAZING!!
UM... YES?
GOOD MORNING!!
WE SAW YOU ON TV!!
THAT... WAS YOU, WASN'T IT?
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE MAYA YUUKI'S SISTER!?
WHAT THE HECK...?
WOO
YAY
HEY, CAN WE ASK YOU FOR HER AUTOGRAPH?
I COULDN'T REALLY TELL ON THE NEWS--IS SHE IN SOME KIND OF TROUBLE?
HEY, TELL US ABOUT YOUR SISTER! WHAT'S SHE LIKE!!
SLAM
THIS IS MAYA'S SISTER? SHE LOOKS NOTHING LIKE MAYA.
THIS SUCKS. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.

IT WAS LATE AT NIGHT... YET THE SKY IN THE WEST LOOKED... RED.
IT SEEMED TO BE A VISION OF THE RED LIGHT DISTRICT AFTER I'D RUN AWAY.
DID YOU SEE ANYTHING WHEN YOU AND MAYA TOUCHED THUMBS?
YEAH... JUST...
THAT RING, THOUGH-- HOW ABOUT THAT, HUH?
YES... RED.
AND IT DEFINITELY WASN'T SUNSET...
KANEKO!! HE'S A SCOUNDREL!!
...IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!!
TO JUST SHOW UP AT A PLACE LIKE THAT WITH AN ENGAGEMENT RING, AFTER NOT CONSULTING HER PARENTS OR ANYTHING...
YES!! A RING ON THE RING FINGER OF THE LEFT HAND-- THAT'S REAL TROUBLE!!
SQUISH
VIVA KANEKO!!
WE CAN'T LET HIM GO ANY FURTHER!!
THAT'S... THAT'S AN ENGAGEMENT RING, IS WHAT THAT IS!!

TSUBAME...
IN THE END...
...MAYA SEEMS NOT TO WANT TO COME HOME AFTER ALL.
THERE WAS DEFINITELY SOMETHING UP, THOUGH, HUH?
SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT BEING AFRAID OF KANOKO HATING HER?
SHE MUST HAVE SEEN SOMETHING ABOUT THE PAST LIFE...

I WAS ABLE TO LET OUT ALL OF THE THINGS I'D BEEN HIDING.
AND WELL...
...I THINK THIS HAS ALL BEEN REALLY... GOOD FOR ME.
...HEY, MIKE.
AND THEN, TSUBAME... YOU DEFENDED ME AT SCHOOL TODAY.
THANKS FOR THAT.
DO YOU THINK I'M CHILDISH?
KANOKO IS SO... MATURE. ALL THIS STUFF HAPPENING, AND SHE'S STILL SO CALM.

SORRY.
HEY, KANOKO.
KANEKO! YOU ARE HEREBY FORBIDDEN TO CHEER ON KANEKO!!
...SORRY... I JUST... LIKE BAD GUYS SOMETIMES.
THIS ALL HAPPENED BECAUSE I BLABBED ABOUT THAT "PAST LIFE" BUSINESS.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR ME, YOU AND MAYA WOULDN'T BE CAUGHT UP IN ALL THIS...
MAYA WOULDN'T HAVE RUN AWAY, EITHER...
NO...
EVEN IF YOU HADN'T COME ALONG, I WOULD HAVE REMEMBERED.
ME AND MAYU HAVE HAD THESE BIRTHMARKS FOREVER, YOU SEE.

BOSS, IT'S IMPOSSIBLE !!
HOW-EVER WILL WE FIND WHERE KANEKO LIVES ?
Maybe they thought we were high school kids or something?
Wait, we ARE high school kids aren't we?
WHAT THE HECK? WE DIDN'T EVEN LAST TWO PANELS IN THERE !!
POOF
HEYYYYYY.
SHOOT, IT MUST BE FATE OR SOMETHIN' ...
...BECAUSE THERE YOU ARE IN FRONT OF ME AGAIN.

I CAN'T BE LIKE THIS FOREVER !!
I HAVE TO BE STRONG!! I'LL PROTECT HER!! ...RIGHT ?
...ALL RIGHT.
WE CAN'T FIND KANEKO'S APARTMENT!!
$#€% HIM!
EX-CUUUU-UUUUSE US!!
DON!!
AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE GOING STRAIGHT TO HIS AGENT'S OFFICE!!

UH...?
OH!!
'TIS PRINCE ARATA!!
WHY IS HE HERE?
HEH HEH
I thought you liked the, uh, other guy?
HELLO, GIRLS!!
I...
...THINK THESE ARE YOURS?
OH YES.
THESE SUIT YOU BETTER, DARLING.
OH...
...THE GLASSES I DROPPED.
LOOK AT YOU, CINDERELLA!!

AW.
AW, MAN.
GRRR
You bame. I think you're hurting her...
SORRY ABOUT THAT, BRO.
HEY!! WATCH IT, BUDDY!!
YOU JUST WATCH IT!!
GRAB
WELCOME THE LATEST ADDITION TO MY WEIRDO COLLECTION.
IF YOU WANNA DROP SOMETHIN' FOR YOUR PRINCE, THOUGH, IT SHOULD BE SOMETHIN' SHINIER.
LIKE A NECKLACE OR SOMETHIN'. NOT SOME OLD GLASSES.
Oh, please.
GAAAN
COME ON WITH ME.
I'LL TAKE YOU AROUND THERE.
YOU GUYS SAY YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR KANEKO?
HE'S PROBABLY BACK HOME.
Why does this keep happening to me?

AND ON TOP OF ALL THIS--
--SHE'S ENGAGED TO A HOT TEENAGE IDOL..
WOULDN'T THAT MAKE A GREAT NEWS STORY ?
NO!!
AND YOU DON'T EVEN REALLY LIKE ME, DO YOU ?!
THAT'S ... THAT'S TOO WEIRD !!
...OH, I LIKE YOU, ALL RIGHT.
YOU SEE, "MAYA YUUKI" IS...
...VERY POPULAR. SHE HAS A BRIGHT FUTURE.
EVERYONE SAYS SHE'S THE ONE JAPANESE ACTRESS TO WATCH FROM NOW ON.

WELL, THEN.
YOU'LL HAVE TO DECIDE REALLY SOON.
YOU'LL HAVE TO GET MARRIED SOONER OR LATER.
WE CAN ALWAYS GET DIVORCED LATER, IF YOU WANT.
WELL, NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, THAT FOOTAGE IS RUNNING ON TELEVISION.
N-- NO ...
...I DON'T WANT TO GET MARRIED ...

I CAN'T SEE A THING ...
OPEN UP !!
KANEKO!!
OH NO ...
IT'S DARK ...
KANEKO...??
I'M SCARED ...
BANG!!
YO YO KANEKO!! WE HEARD EVERYTHING !!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO KICK YOUR BUTT NOW !!

THINK ABOUT IT.
PAT
CLUNK
WH...
..... WHERE IS THIS PLACE ?
WH...
... HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT ?
SEE.
YOU GOT HERE THANKS TO YOUR MOTHER'S RENOWNED ACTING SKILLS.

I HAVE A PICTURE OF YOU AND MAYA ON THIS PHONE.
IF YOU DON'T WANT ME TO GET THIS OUT ON THE INTERNET, YOU'LL COOPERATE.
KANEKO, YOU'RE SO WICKED !!
MAN, YOU'RE JUST AS EVIL AS... WELL, AS WE EXPECTED !!
I WON'T LET YOU USE MAYU ANY FURTHER.
I WON'T LET YOU DO IT.

AHA.
YOU'RE HER SISTER, RIGHT ?
GOOD WORK FINDING THIS PLACE.
HM? YOU MUST BE MISTAKEN.
WE ARE HERE TO RESCUE MAYA !!
WHERE IS MAYU?
...WELL.
LOOK, WE'RE BOTH GONNA GET IN TROUBLE FOR THIS.
THEN I'LL TAKE YOU TO HER AGENT SO YOU CAN APOLO-GIZE ?
NOW WHY DON'T YOU STOP BEIN' A LOSER AND LET HIS LADY GO HOME, HMM?
HOW RUDE OF YOU.
MAYA'S THE ONE WHO SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT TO GO HOME.
WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN ?
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU EVER GO ANY-WHERE ELSE.
WHAT THE HECK DOES "WHAT THE HECK DOES THAT MEAN" MEAN, UHHH?

AND ANYONE WHO WOULD DECEIVE AND USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU DO...
...WILL NEVER BECOME ANYTHING!!
KANOKO...
SHUT UP!!
BAM

HM!! YOU TALK BIG.
AND WEREN'T YOU USING MAYA, TOO?
...YES, I DID.
MAYBE, YES, MAYBE I WAS USING MAYU.
SHE TOLD ME.
SHE TOLD ME YOU BE-TRAYED HER.
BUT...
MAYU'S TALENT IS REAL.
EVEN IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE SELF-CONFIDENCE YET...
THOUGH, EVEN WITHOUT ME AND MOM, MAYU WOULD STILL HAVE BECOME AN ACTRESS!

LET'S END THIS RIGHT HERE.
YOU LOSE, MAN.
...ARATA...
...ALL RIGHT. ALL RIGHT.
I LOSE.
SO, WHAT ELSE DO YOU WANT ME TO SAY?
THAT I WAS THE ONE WHO SENT THE PHOTOS TO THE MAGAZINES? BECAUSE I WAS.

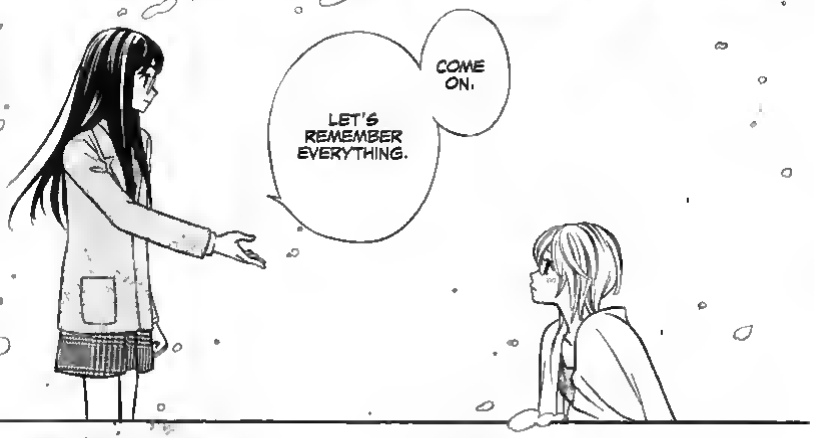
I WILL NOT LET YOU HURT HER.
SO BACK OFF.
WHOA ♥
WELL THEN !!
FLIP
CLICK

PW
CH
YOU'RE A FOOL!!
BLOCH
THIS PLACE...
I NEVER SAID YOU DIDN'T HAVE TALENT.
...THIS IS WHERE YOU COME TO PRACTICE BY YOURSELF, HUH?
THAT'S WHY WE NEED YOU!
WHAT YOU GOT, MAN...
...IS PASSION.

...I JUST WANTED TO DO SOMETHING BEFORE I FADED AWAY...
I GUESS THERE'S NO USE ANYWAY...
I'LL QUIT SPLASH.
HOW'S THAT? IS THAT GOOD ENOUGH?
"IS THAT...
"'GOOD ENOUGH'?"
YOU WANT ME TO SAY THAT I HAVE NO TALENT?
BECAUSE I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT ...AND...
...I WAS NEVER CHOSEN, LIKE YOU... BECAUSE...

...WELL...
...IF YOU, UH... SAY SO.
I'LL BE SURE TO PUNISH THIS GUY THOROUGHLY FOR Y'ALL.
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT !!
LET US RESTORE PEACE !!
BAM. BAM. BAM.
WE HUMBLY APOLOGIZE !!
OR, WELL, I'M APOLOGIZING IN HIS PLACE !!
I'LL BE SEEING YOU AROUND. I AIN'T KIDDING ♡ !!
MY GORGEOUS KANOKO ♡!!
hey
Hey hey hey !!
...OH...
...AND...
I'LL BE TAKING HIM HOME NOW !!
WA!! ♡
YOU GUYS ARE TOO KIND♥!

...SO
...YEAH.
SO!!
I WON'T TAKE ANY MORE OF YOUR NONSENSE !!
YOU WILL BE A MEMBER OF SPLASH UNTIL THE DAY YOU DIE.



I REGRETTED IT FOR A LIFETIME.

I BETRAYED HER.

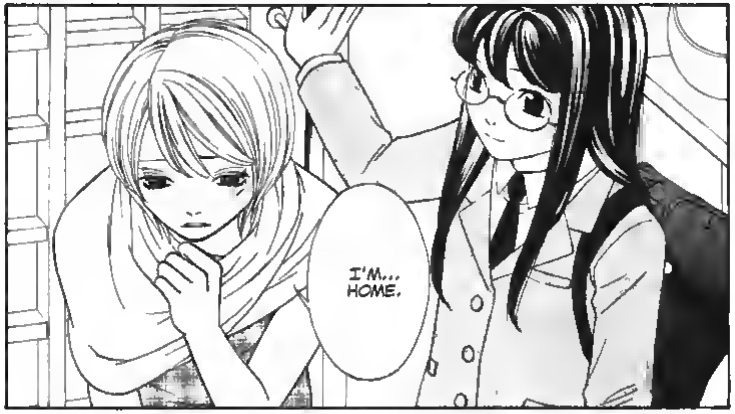
I HURT HER.

AND IN THE NEXT LIFE, AND IN THE NEXT.

HEHE... SAYONARA!!
I REMEMBERED...
WAIT...
THERE WAS SOMETHING JUST LIKE THIS... BACK THEN...
AS PUNISHMENT...
SHE WAS SEALED IN A DARK PLACE.
AND I WENT TO LET HER OUT.
WE'VE BEEN HAD!!
...HUH?!
WAIT A MINUTE, DOES ANYONE ELSE GET THE FEELING THEY JUST PULLED ONE OVER ON US?
...PRINCE ARATA IS REALLY COOL, HUH?♥
KYAAA!

OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 14
"Agemaki and Yumeji"

I'VE MISSED HER, FOR SO LONG.
I COULD NEVER FORGET HER.
CHAPTER 13 END



Character Guide #11

Shunji Kaneko

Birthday 5/11
Blood Type: A

He is a member of the idol group, Splash. He is a smooth, nice, calm guy on the outside, yet on the inside he plots jealous schemes against the group leader Arata

SHE LOST EVERYONE SHE COULD DEPEND ON WHEN SHE WAS STILL VERY YOUNG
SHE HAD THE WILL TO CARRY ON, YET NO PLACE TO GO
WELL WE'RE HERE.
THIS WILL BE YOUR HOME FROM NOW ON
AND YET SHE FOUND THE STRENGTH TO STAND ON HER OWN
THIS IS YOSHIWARA
SHE DID NOT YET KNOW
WHAT SECRETS WAITED IN THIS WORLD.

IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'M NOT GOING TO LET GO OF YOU.
KYUZOKO...
I'M... SCARED..
MAYU AND I...
NO MATTER WHAT WE SEE...
SPLOSH
SHRRRRRRRR
WE WILL COME BACK.

-MAYU!!
MANY WEEKS LATER...
MAYU HAS COME BACK HOME.
ALL RIGHT...
LET'S DO IT.
LET'S SEE THE "FAST LIFE"...

"AGEMAKI" WAS THE NAME OF A LEGENDARY BEAUTY FROM A PLAY.
YES, CHIDORI
YOU POSSESS A BEAUTY THAT COMES ONLY ONCE AN AGE
I BELIEVE IN YOU. YOU, TOO, WILL BE CALLED A LEGEND. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I AM GIVING YOU THIS NAME AS A GESTURE OF HOPE
WOW
LOOK!
LOOK!!
..YES, THEN
IT WOULD BE AN HONOR TO SERVE YOU

I SAW IT...
THE PLACE I USED TO LIVE.
HM?
I WILL BE "AGEMAKI?"

FOR EVERY "AGEMAKI"...
...THERE MUST BE A "SUKEROKU."
SUKEROKU...
THE MOST CELEBRATED CHARACTER IN KABUKI TODAY...

WOULD YOU TAKE A LOOK AT THAT
THAT'S AGEMAKI, OF THE MIURAYA, THE JEWEL OF YOSHIWARA

SHE HAS A BEAUTIFUL VOICE
SERVES TEA AND COMPOSES HAIKUS
SHE IS DELICATE AND REFINED
SHE DOES SEEM TO DESERVE THE TITLE
THERE IS JUST ONE THING

...EVER YEARN SO FOR A MAN?
...HH. MIGHT I, TOO...
YET THE SUKEROKU OF THE PLAY IN KYOTO DIFFERS FROM THE SUKEROKU OF EDO
YES, AGEMAKI
IT SEEMS THAT PLAY IS QUITE POPULAR AROUND KYOTO LATELY
WELL, SAKAKI-BARA-SAMA
THE LADY OF THE NIGHT, AGEMAKI, AND THE MAN ABOUT TOWN, SUKEROKU
YOU SEE, THE PLAY IS BASED ON AN EVENT WHICH ACTUALLY OCCURRED IN THE CITY
AS IT'S PERFORMED IN KYOTO
..AGEMAKI AND SUKEROKU COMMIT LOVERS' SUICIDE

IN THAT PLAY, THE ONLY ONE
WHO CAN SAVE SUKE-ROKU...
IS AGEMAKI, LADY OF THE NIGHT
SHE WOULD RISK HER LIFE ON WORDS
FOR THE SAKE OF A MAN IN LOVE WITH HER...
"I CANNOT GO ON
IF BY CHANCE A CUSTOMER
..TRULY DOES LOVE ME."

HMM.
MY LADY!!
WOWWW, LOOK AT ALL THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS.
THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOMED JEALOUS OF YOUR BEAUTY!!
THEY'VE BLOOMED EARLY THIS YEAR.

I HAVE HEARD TALK ABOUT THIS IN THE CITY
NOW THEN AGEMAKI LEND ME YOUR RIGHT HAND
AGEMAKI AND SUKEROKU WHO COMMITTED LOVERS' SUICIDE
AS YOU WISH
THEY PAINTED MARKS-- IN THIS SHAPE-- ON ONE ANOTHER'S HANDS
THEY SAY IT WAS TO GIVE ONE ANOTHER A SIGN IN A FUTURE LIFE
WILL I, TOO...
SOMEDAY...
...FIND SOMEONE LIKE THAT...?

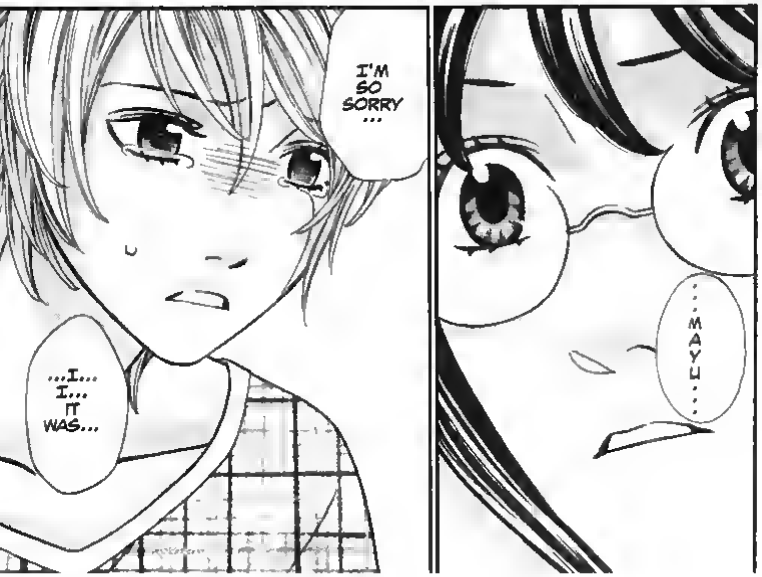
REGRETABLY
PLEASE LET US KEEP MY ILLNESS A SECRET BETWEEN THE TWO OF US
IS THAT SO?
I AM SORRY
I DO NOT BELIEVE I WILL BE ABLE TO HELP YOU IN THIS MATTER
I HAVE TO LEAVE HERE.
TIME IS RUNNING OUT... FOR ME ...
AT LEAST ...
I CAN LEAVE HERE, AND DIE ON THE OUTSIDE ...

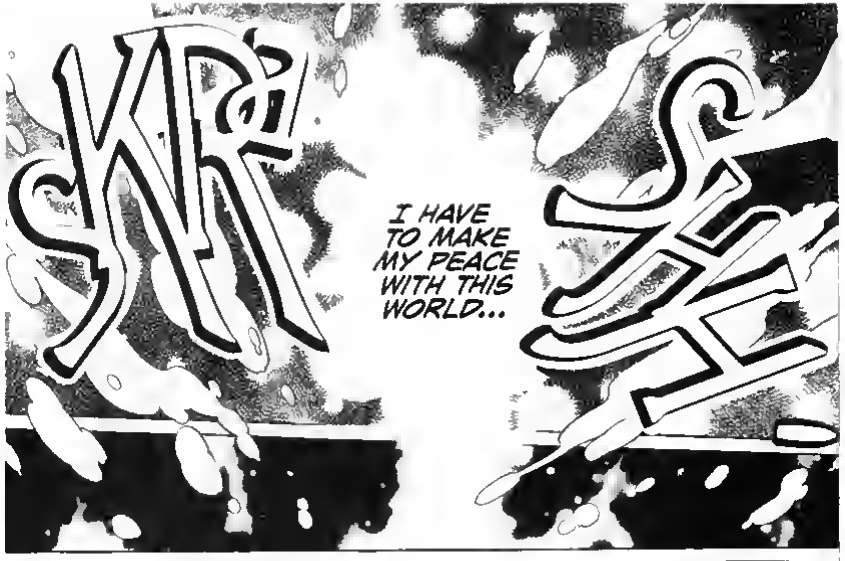
WELL! WHAT A SPLENDID HAIKU!!!
YOU ARE SUCH A GOOD CHILD, YUMEJI.
"CHERRY BLOSSOMS BLOOM EARLY"
"WHEN LADY DRAWS NEAR"
"JEALOUS OF BEAUTY"
AND YET...
HOW GLORIOUS
BUTTERFLIES ...!!
BLOOD ?
SPRING HAS YET TO VISIT ME.
COUGH COUGH

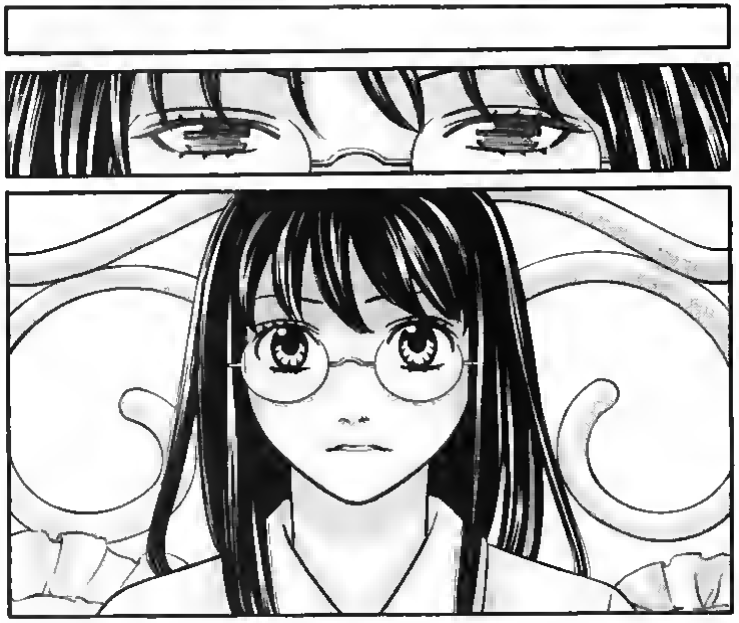
I AM BEING PUNISHED.
EVEN SO...
...EVEN SO...
THIS IS BECAUSE I ABANDONED YOSHIWARA ...
... YOSHI-WARA BURNS ...

I'M SURE NO ONE'S SEEN US
I DON'T WANT TO THINK OF THIS WALLED CITY AS THE ONLY WORLD I EVER KNEW.
IT'S A LITTLE TOO EARLY FOR DAYBREAK
HUH WHAT'S WITH THAT SKY?
Y... YOSHIWARA IS..
IT'S... IT'S A FIRE
OH NO..
THE SKY IS RED.

KANOKO, I...
...I REMEMBERED...


I'M SO SORRY ...
...I... I... IT WAS...
...MAYU...


SKIP
I HAVE TO MAKE MY PEACE WITH THIS WORLD...



I.....
...I TRIED TELLING THEM THAT I STARTED THE FIRE.
NO ONE BELIEVED ME.
I TRIED TO FOLLOW HER... I WANTED TO DIE, TOO. I COULDN'T DO IT.
...I HEARD THAT AGEMAKI HAD DIED.
AFTER THAT...
AND SO I BURNED ...
...THIS TATTOO.
I BURNED IT TO ERASE IT...

...IT WAS...
...IT WAS ME...
...I'M THE ONE WHO SET YOSHIWARA ON FIRE.
I SAW AGEMAKI LEAVING ...
AND I THOUGHT, IF I START A FIRE ...
THEN PEOPLE WOULD PANIC...
AND I COULD SNEAK OUT, AND FIND HER...
YET...
THE FIRE SPREAD OUT OF CONTROL ...
EVERYONE THOUGHT THAT AGEMAKI HAD CAUSED THE FIRE AND RUN AWAY.

I ONLY HAD A SHORT TIME LEFT TO LIVE.
I WAS SUFFERING FROM AN INCURABLE ILLNESS.
...KANOKO...
SEE...
...THAT WAS MY FATE.
I'M SORRY, MAYU.
...WE WERE BORN AGAIN, AS SISTERS...
SUCH A MYSTERIOUS THING...
YET...
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD APOL-OGIZE.

...NO, NO...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, MAYU...
I'M SO SORRY...
--IT WAS ALL MY FAULT!!

ME, TOO ...
OW, MY THUMB ...
YOW !!
MATSUKI
THE BUTTERFLY ...
...

KANOKO...
I'M SO HAPPY...
WE COULD MEET AGAIN LIKE THIS...

--THE BIRTHMARK DISAP-PEARED !?
WHAT HAP-PENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU ?
WE CLEARED THINGS UP.
I FEEL LIKE... WE CAN START ALL OVER AGAIN.
WELL, I GUESS ... ... WE'RE GETTING ALONG AGAIN ...
NO, NOT MINE ...
JUST MAYU'S.

SO, YOU WERE SAYING THAT MAYA WAS SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU, IN THE PAST LIFE?
SO MAYBE THE REASON SHE DIDN'T SEE THE PAST LIFE UNTIL NOW IS BECAUSE, BACK THEN, SHE ERASED THE TATTOO ?
...AND NOW THAT YOU'VE SETTLED THE SCORE WITH THE PAST LIFE, IT VANISHED?
MAYBE THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REVEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PAST LIFE, HUH...
THAT BIRTHMARK... IT'S A REAL MYSTERY.
IT REALLY MAKES ME WONDER... WHY KANOKO STILL HAS HERS...

I WONDER IF IT'S TRUE...
...THAT IF YOU TIE UP YOUR LOOSE ENDS WITH THE PAST LIFE, IT VANISHES.
WHEN ME AND YOU LOOKED AT OUR PAST LIVES, NOTHING HAPPENED
THAT MEANS YOU WEREN'T THE TRUE LOVE I WAS LOOKING FOR. HEH.
SLAP
OW, HEY, WHY WON'T YOU LET ME HOLD YOUR HAND!?
RUB
...AND... AND... YOU NEVER TOLD ME ABOUT WHAT YOU SAW, MIKE...

SIGN IN
HEE
LITE
HEE
CLUB
Yeah, that Kaneko guy was a real
YEAH. WELL. UH, ANYWAY, THANKS A LOT FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS, GUYS.
DON'T MENTION IT!
GAHAHAHA
Well, it was fun!!
HEY, MIKE.
I WAS THINKIN' ...
ABOUT THE BIRTHMARK.

...THAT'S WHY I STILL HAVE THIS MARK. BECAUSE I WILL MEET HER AGAIN.
I WILL FIND HER. EVER SINCE THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL ...
I...I WILL MEET WITH MY "AGEMAKI" AGAIN.
BECAUSE I BELIEVE SHE'LL COME TO ME AT THE RIGHT TIME!!
I DECIDED NOT TO GO OUT OF MY WAY SEARCHING FOR HER.
YES. YET--
I MEAN, THANKS TO THIS MARK, I MET YOU, MIKE...
...I'LL BE KIND OF SAD WHEN I LOSE THIS MARK...
BUT, MAN ...
...OH
GRIZZH

I DON'T WANT TO LOOK AT THE "PAST LIFE" WITH YOU ANY-MORE.
WHAT?
OH, COME ON, JUST ONCE ...
...HEY.
MIKE.
DON'T YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN YOUR TRUE LOVE?
I MEAN, I REALLY WANNA FIND MINE.
I THINK ABOUT HER ALL THE TIME. THAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS MARK.

CARLTON
Totally!
Ohmigod! That's SO cute..
MAYBE I SHOULD ...
DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS HAIR.
...NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, I'VE NEVER EVEN WORN MAKEUP.

HEY, WAIT UP..
...WHA--?
HUH?
CRUNCH CRUNCH
OH, I'M SO SORRY --
MIKE, DOESN'T THAT LOOK LIKE THAT GUY?
YOU KNOW, THAT GUY FROM SPLASH ?
UMMM
UM...
...I'M, UH, SEARCHING FOR SOMEONE ...
SHE'S A STUDENT AT THIS SCHOOL...
HER NAME IS KANOKO HIMEMIYA. DO YOU KNOW HER?

I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE MOST COMFORTABLE FOR ME.
MOREOVER, "MAYA" WAS JUST A PROJECTION OF MY "AGEMAKI."
YET, "MAYA" DOESN'T EVEN REALLY EXIST.
AND "AGEMAKI" WAS WHO I WAS IN THE PAST...
AND THEN I WAS REBORN AS "KANOKO."
AGEMAKI WAS BEAUTIFUL.
...WHY WAS I REBORN?
YET, SHE TOOK HER OWN LIFE.
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, IS IT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE HAPPY?

"WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?"
"I THINK YOU'RE PRETTY, KANOKO..."
I LET TSUBAME DO MY NAILS...
...AND NOW THE POLISH HAS WORN OFF.
THAT TIME...
THE PERFECT, STRONG, BEAUTIFUL ONE WAS THE "MAYA" MAYU AND I CREATED.
...WHEN TSUBAME SAID THAT, I COULDN'T BELIEVE HIM...
I MADE MYSELF BELIEVE MY PRIDE IN MAYA WAS ENOUGH; THAT I DIDN'T NEED TO ASSOCIATE WITH OTHER GIRLS.
I GUESS I HAD NO SELF-CONFIDENCE.

SHOK
YOU PROBABLY SHOULDN'T BE STOPPING TO STARE AT YOURSELF IN A STORE WINDOW.
IF YOU'RE IN A HURRY AND ALL...
AW, JUST WHEN WE MEET AGAIN MIRACULOUSLY LIKE THAT?
You can do whatever you're, uh, here to do...
OH, SORRY, I'M KINDA IN A HURRY...
STARE
NOW LET ME SEEEE...
OH, YOU WERE NOT, WERE YOU?
I WAS NOT "STARING"!
HE WAS WATCHING ME..
HE NOTICED.
I SHOULD JUST ADMIT IT. I'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE...
...YOU COULD BE MAYBE A LITTLE TINY BIT PRETTIER?
I BET YOU WERE THINKING...
POW!!
HELLO-OOO!!
THIS MUST BE DESTINY! I MEAN IT!!
I JUST KNEW YOU AND ME WAS GONNA MEET AGAIN SOON!!
WHAT?!
OH, MY GOD WHAT IS UP WITH THIS GUY?
I REALLY HAVE TO APOLOGIZE AGAIN.
How's your sister?
YOU BUSY RIGHT NOW?
Acting like he's an old friend
And you're, uh, really famous?
RIGHT OUT IN THE OPEN?
AW, I DON'T WORRY ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT.
ARATA?!?!
HM? AIN'T YOU EXCITED?
WHY, SILLY, I CAME TO SEE YOU.
WH... WHY...
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

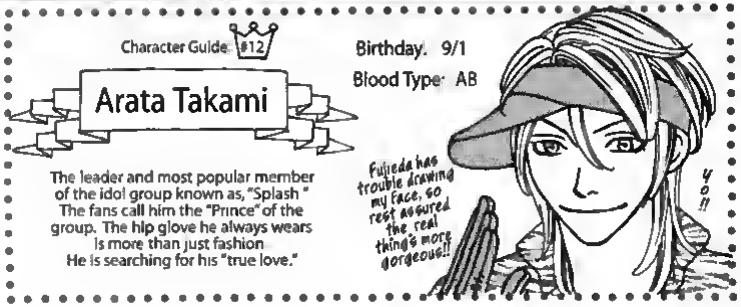
OYAYUBIHIME
INFINITY
CHAPTER 15
Commence Attack

I WAS ACTUALLY, UH, ON MY WAY TO SEE MY HAIRSTYLIST.
THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD THING ...
IF YOU WANNA COME ALONG ...?
I MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO FLY AFTER ALL ...
...UM.
YEAH, SURE. WHY NOT?
CHAPTER 14 END

ACTUALLY, I'M A, UH, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
Maybe this wasn't such a good idea after all.
HELLO, GIRLIE. DID ARATA STEAL YOU AWAY FROM YOUR MIDDLE SCHOOL?
Yeah. People always make that mistake.
OH YEAH?
YO, ARATA. LOOKIN' GOOD!!
AND YOU'RE LOOKIN' PRETTY GORGEOUS YOURSELF!!
HEY, WHO'S THE LADY?

OH...
HEY, TAKE YOUR TIME, DARLING.
UHHH.....
.....UM.....
MAN, ALL I KNOW ABOUT HAIRSTYLES IS I WANT A DIFFERENT ONE.
HAIR CATALOG
SORRY! SORRY!!
ANYWAY, I BET YOU CAME TO GET YOUR HAIR CUT!!
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?
THIS SEASON'S CATALOG

snip
snip
snip
I ALWAYS GET NERVOUS WHEN I GO SOMEWHERE FOR THE FIRST TIME.
ESPECIALLY WHEN IT'S A REALLY TRENDY PLACE.
OH MY GOD.
I...I DON'T BELONG HERE.
HEY HEY!!
I BROUGHT YOU A NEW CUSTOMER!!


Character Guide #12
Arata Takami
Birthday. 9/1
Blood Type· AB
The leader and most popular member of the idol group known as, "Splash." The fans call him the "Prince" of the group. The hip glove he always wears is more than just fashion. He is searching for his "true love."
Fujieda has trouble drawing my face, so rest assured the real thing's more gorgeous!!
YO!!

SO, KANOKO ...
GO ON, PICK SOMETHING YOU LIKE.
...WHAT I LIKE.
...OKAY.
CAN YOU CUT IT LIKE... THIS ?
AND I THINK I ALREADY KNOW ...
HERE, TAKE A LOOK AT THE BACK.
YOU LIKE IT?
WOW, IT'S LIKE SHE'S BEEN... REBORN !!
...IT'S... PERFECT.
THANK YOU.
COME AGAIN ANYTIME!
WE DON'T HAVE MANY CUSTOMERS WITH HAIR AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOURS.

I'LL BE BACK!!
IT'S KIND OF FUNNY..
SOMETIMES THE BIG BLUE SKY..
... MAKES THE CITY FEEL LIKE A WIDE GRASSY PLAIN.
JUKI
WHAAAAAAT?
TAIJU FROM SPLASH WAS HERE YESTERDAY ?!?!
HERE? YESTER-DAY ?!
NO WAY!
NO WAY YAAA
KANOKO, HUH? HM. SOMETHING MUST BE UP.
IT SEEMED LIKE HE WAS LOOKING FOR KANOKO.
Oh god!! Did you TOUCH him?!
OH, HEY, KANOKO, GOOD--
WHAT YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT ?
...MORNING.

GOOD MORNING.
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU FOR A SECOND !!
KANOKO, WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOU?!
GYUH!!
.....
.....
HEY!
FWUMP FWUMP
ISN'T SHE GORGEOUS? TELL ME SHE'S GORGEOUS, COME ON !?
UM...
IT'S KA-NOKO !!
MIKE!!
MIKE, C'MERE!
WOW WOW
It looks really good on you!! Where are your glasses? Can you see without them?
WOW WOW

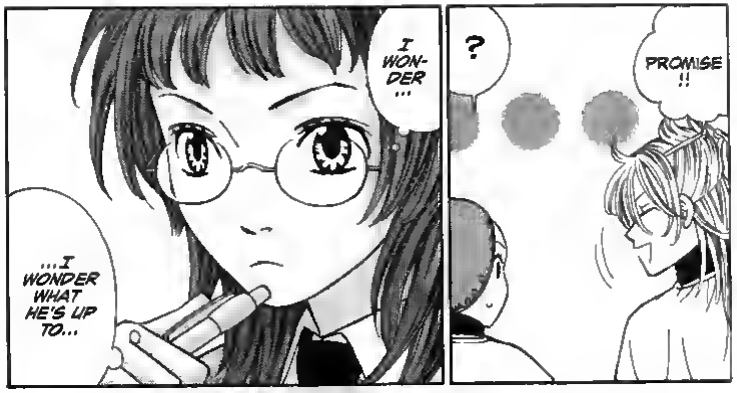
There's something wrong with me. I should ask the school nurse...
WHOA--
ISN'T THAT... HIME-MIYA?
PEOPLE ARE REALLY TALKING ABOUT IT..
WELL, LET THEM. I DON'T MIND.
HUH? HMM!!
I'VE SEEN BETTER !!
WOOOOW♥
SHE LOOKS GREAT !!
Gotta be a story behind it...
I WONDER WHERE SHE GOT IT CUT...

IT'S SO WEIRD ...
WHY-- HOW DID SHE GET SO GORGEOUS SO SUDDENLY ?!
I DON'T KNOW. WHY DON'T YOU ASK... HER?
...OH.
...I'VE NEVER BEEN SHY...
... AROUND GIRLS BEFORE !!
I...I CAN'T !!
SHE'S TOO GOR-GEOUS !!

I DON'T KNOW. FROM THE MOMENT I MET HER, I JUST COULDN'T HELP GUSHING ABOUT HER.
WHY DID I LOVE HER SO MUCH? MAN, IT'S HARD TO SAY.
SO YEAH ...
...I PROPOSED TO HER, TONS OF TIMES.
AND THEN ...
SHE REFUSED ME EVERY TIME.
...WELL, SHE DIED.
SHE DIED ...?
SO.
NEXT TIME I FIND HER--
--I WILL NOT LET GO.

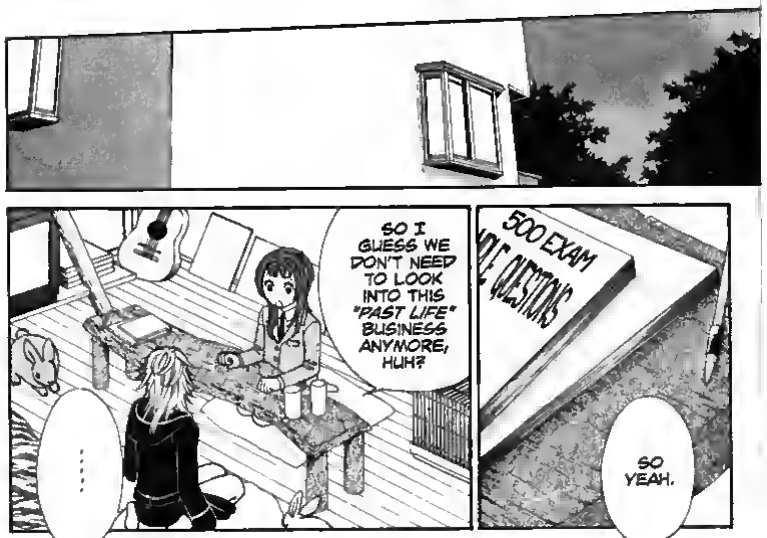
THEY CAN ALL DO WHATEVER THEY WANT.
AND I'LL DO WHAT I WANT.
SPEAKING OF WHAT PEOPLE "WANT..."
no, she doesn't wear contacts
HEY, KANOKO.
UMM... OKAY?
IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO.
LIKE, A REALLY LONG TIME AGO. AND THERE WAS THIS GIRL I LOVED A LOT.
IS IT ALL RIGHT WITH YOU IF I TALK ABOUT THIS GIRL I USED TO LIKE?

THOUGH MAYU'S DOING FINE. WE'RE GETTING ALONG.
MAYU'S BIRTHMARK DISAP-PEARED ...
...AND, WELL, MINE IS STILL HERE, WHICH IS MYSTERIOUS.
I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA, TOO.
AND, WELL... MAYU...
I REALIZE WE WERE GOING ABOUT IT ALL WRONG BEFORE.
IT MIGHT BE KIND OF HARD TO CONVINCE HER AGENCY, THOUGH ...
...SHE DECIDED TO START HER CAREER ANEW, ONLY AS MAYU HIMEMIYA, NOT MAYA YUUKI.



WOULD THAT GUY TELL ME SOMETHING LIKE THAT?

WHY ON EARTH...



I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED WITH YOU ANYMORE.
LOOK. JUST GO.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
DO YOU THINK I WAS JUST COMING HERE TO USE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE PAST LIFE?
WHAT THE HECK!! WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!
.....!!
IT'S SO SUDDEN.
I THOUGHT MIKE WAS ONE OF US.
SO THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT OF ME ...
MAN...
GOOD EVAN! SMART QUESTIONS
ALL RIGHT, I GET IT! I WON'T COME HERE ANYMORE !!

I GET THE FEELING THAT SEEING INTO THE "PAST LIFE" HAS REALLY HELPED US UNDERSTAND OUR SHORT-COMINGS.
I'M GLAD WE DID IT.
??
WHAT'S WRONG, MIKE?
...GO HOME.
SWOOSH
...HUH.
DON'T EVER COME HERE AGAIN.

IT LOOKS LIKE THIS LITTLE KITTY GOT SEPARATED FROM HIS MOMMY
OOH, IT LOOKS LIKE HE HURT HIS FOOT, TOO...
meow?
UTSUSEMI, WILL YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR ME?
...UTSUSEM!...
...UTSUSEM!...

I GUESS ...
...I WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO THOUGHT THAT.
Sniff Sniff
IT'S THE SAME ...
... THE SAME AS BACK THEN ...
IT'S SO WEIRD ...
...I'VE NEVER BEEN SHY AROUND GIRLS BEFORE !!

WHY MUST THE SAME MAN...
FALL INTO SUCH A LOVE...
...TWO TIMES?
THUD
SUDDENLY...
...I FEEL AS THOUGH I CAN'T MOVE.

murmur
SUKEROKU-SAMA
MORNING TO YOU, TOO
I MUST KNOW HER NAME
THAT GIRL
SUKE-ROKU-SAMA?
SHE IS AGEMAKI
AHH.

AND FINALLY ...
...I STARTED TO ACTUALLY ENJOY BEING A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
SCHOOL CALMED DOWN.
OUR HOUSE-HOLD WAS HAPPIER THAN EVER.
GROUP FINAL EXAMS
AFTER THAT ...
... WINTER BREAK WAS HERE.
AND BEFORE I KNEW IT...
YOU WANT A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY WINTER BREAK !!

THE PAST IS COMING BACK ...
...MORE THAN I THOUGHT IT WOULD.
YOU, TOO ...
...WERE BROUGHT TO ME BY THAT MAN.
ZANSETU.
SHUNNE.
SOOKHI
SIMPLE QUESTIONS
KAIDO UNIVERSITY
ENTRY APPLICATION
I HAVE TO...
...GET OUT OF HERE, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

I guess you didn't know how to have fun!!
I... CAN'T REMEMBER EVER BELIEVING IN HIM, ACTUALLY.
I was a very reality-minded child.
RIGHT ON--I WAS THE SAME WAY, KANOKO.
HEY, DID YOU GUYS EVER BELIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS?
I BELIEVED UNTIL I WAS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!
I was so disappointed when I found out Santa wasn't real
HAH! I ONLY BELIEVED UNTIL KINDER-GARTEN.
UM, BOSS, WHY ARE YOU SERVING US ODEN*? SHOULDN'T WE BE HAVING SOMETHING MORE... CHRIST-MASSY?
WELL, I DON'T WANT TO GET FAT. I WAS THINKING OF YOUR HEALTH.
*A popular Japanese hot pot dish.
I MEAN, I BELIEVE IN HIM. ...HE JUST NEVER BRINGS ME WHAT I WANT...
UH... ARE YOU GUYS SAYING HE'S...NOT REAL...?
POP
SILENCE
YES!! HOW DID YOU KNOW?!
DA HA HA HA HA
YEAH, TSUBAME, I BET YOU ALWAYS ASK HIM TO BRING YOU YOUR AGEMAKI, HUH?

...NAH, MAYBE IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION.
OR MAYBE THAT'S JUST BECAUSE I KNOW I'M NOT HIS "AGEMAKI."
TSUBAME'S BEEN... LOOKING AT ME A LOT LATELY.
HUH?
knock knock
HEE HEE
UM, WELL...
I GUESS I'LL WISH THAT I COULD MEET TAIJU FROM SPLASH.
SQUEAK SQUEAK

UM... THAT'S ME.
WHAT IS IT?
...HMMM.
ANYWAY.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KID!! GIRLS ARE MAGICAL, AND CAN TRANSFORM WHENEVER THEY SO DESIRE!!
CALM DOWN.
You might start a fire.
I MEAN, I ONLY EVER SAW YOU FOR LIKE A SECOND, ON TV.
OH?
YOU LOOK... DIFFERENT.

SLOPE
OH MY GOD IT'S TAIJU !!
FAINT
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU ALL-- I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE--
DREAMS REALLY DO COME TRUE !!
TSUBAME !! THERE REALLY IS A SANTA CLAUS !!
YAHOO!!
SNAP OUT OF IT!!
DO ANY OF YOU KNOW...
KANOKO HIMEMIYA?

I'M A BIT DISAPPOINTED.
I THINK ARATA'S WAY OFF THE MARK, PERSONALLY.
.....HUH?
HEY!! HEY!! WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT ALL OF A SUDDEN, KID?
I'M NOT A KID! I'M ALMOST IN HIGH SCHOOL, OKAY?!
Why don't you take off the PARTY HAT and try saying that again, huh?
SO YOU'VE BEEN MEETING ARATA, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT OUT OF HIM, HUH?
WAIT.. WHAT THE HECK IS THIS KID SAYING ...?
I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOU.
I HONESTLY DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
I HAVEN'T BEEN TRICKING ANYONE ABOUT ANYTHING.
AND BESIDES, ARATA CAN PICK THE GIRL HE WANTS HIMSELF; HE DOESN'T NEED YOUR INPUT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT EXACTLY YOU THINK YOU'RE TRYING TO PULL...
...ALL I KNOW IS THAT ARATA DESERVES A GIRL WITH SOME DECENCY.
WH--WHAT !!

I TELL YA...
IT WAS A REALLY GOOD DECISION OF YOU TO COME TO THE HAIRSTYLIST'S WITH ME THAT DAY !!

KANOKO, YOU'RE STILL A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT, RIGHT ?
YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME; SOON YOU'LL BE MAYBE TOO GORGEOUS !!
"I TELL YA?!?!" THE HAIR-STYLISTS ?!?!
GRRRRRRRR
GRRRRRRRR
WHAT?!?!
YOU WENT TO GET YOUR HAIRCUT WITH PRINCE ARATA !?
WELL... um THERE'S NO SPECIAL REASON...
I might I want you!!

SWOOSH
HEY HEY HEY, TAIJUUUUU !!
I CAN'T LET YOU BE GETTING IN THE WAY OF MY LOVE, NOW. ♥

KYAAA AAAAAAA!!
THE PRINCE IS HERE!! IT'S A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE !!
A... ARATA-SAN ...
HA HA HA

MAN, YOU'RE EVEN MORE GORGEOUS THAN BEFORE !!
WOOOOH ♥
...GRR
LONG TIME NO SEE, DARLING KANOKO !! ♥
I made room in my schedule to come to your party. ♥
How do you like my new hairstyle?
Thank you, Sumida! Tonight we party!!

I, UH... WELL ...
I GUESS I KIND OF AM.. HER FRIEND ...?
YOU'RE MINE.
ALRIGHTY?
SO, TELL ME, KANOKO-- DO YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND YET?
UM... WELL.. NO?
I mean, LOOK at you..
WELL THEN. I CAN SEE YOU'RE LONELY.
DON'T WORRY ANYMORE, THOUGH, DARLING.

I S'POSE MY INTUITION WAS RIGHT !!
FIRST OF ALL, WHAT ARE YOU DOING COMING TO PEOPLES' SCHOOL?
STOP RIGHT THERE !!
ISN'T THAT WHY YOU GREW UP, SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL ?
HUH? HEY, MAN, WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, HUH?
MY NAME IS TSUBAME YOSHIZAWA !!
YOU MET ME BEFORE, REMEMBER ?!
When you busted up Kaneko?
NO NEED TO GET MAD, FELLA.
ARE YOU, WHAT...? KANOKO'S FRIEND?

YOU ARE HER, REBORN.
THE BUTTERFLY ...
IN THE PAST LIFE, I WAS "MASAMINE SAKAKIBARA."
AND YOU WERE "AGEMAKI."
DO YOU REMEMBER?

REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE?
Well? Shall I show you my trump-card, then?
NOW... WAIT...
DID HE JUST TOTALLY PROPOSE TO HER OR WHAT?
THIS IS BETTER THAN TV... BETTER THAN MANGA EVEN!!
KYAAAA
KYAAAA
KYAAAA
OH NO ...
WELL, I FOUND YOU.
YOU REMEMBER THAT?
...I WOULDN'T LET HER GO.
I SAID, IF I EVER FOUND HER AGAIN...
ABOUT THE GIRL I PROPOSED TO A MILLION TIMES BEFORE?

I just went to see a play called "Sukeroku Yukari no Edo Zakura." It was my first time ever seeing Kabuki, so it was a really fresh experience. It was a story about the life, romance, and death of the "real" Agemaki and Sukeroku.

*"Sukeroku and the Flower of Edo"

In "Oyayubihime Infinity," Tsubame was that very "Sukeroku" in his past life.

The story of "Sukeroku Yukari no Edo Zakura." actually doesn't involve a lovers' suicide--it's actually about Sukeroku's exploits as a great hero.

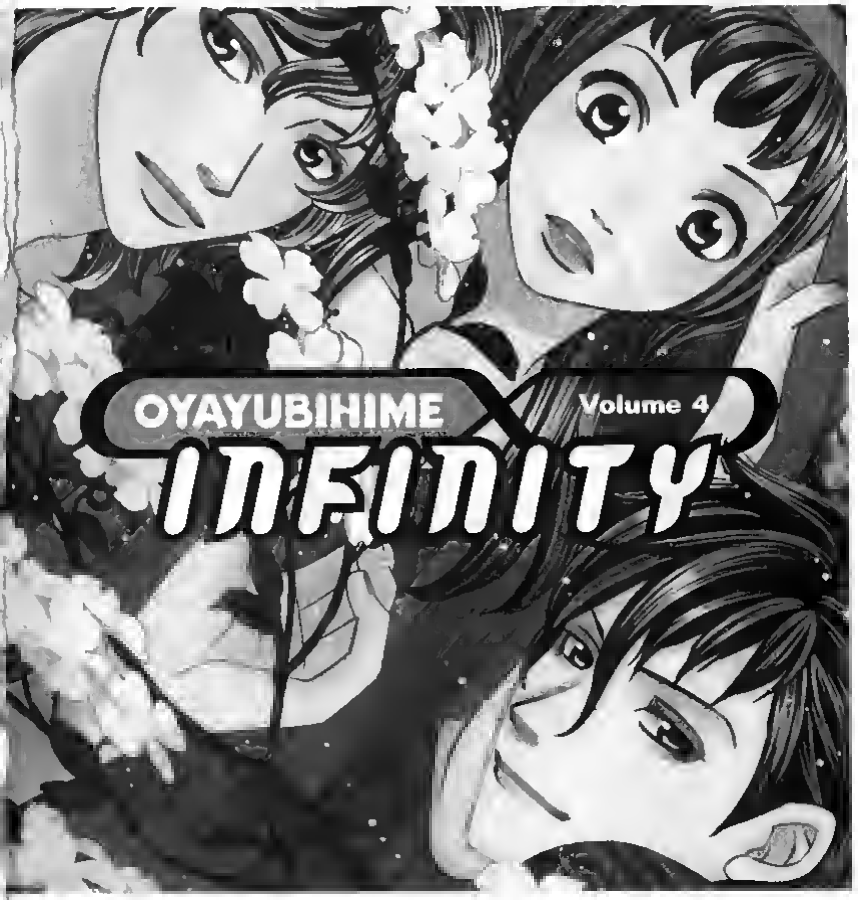
So, since seeing the play, I kind of wanted to try to make Kanoko and Tsubame look like the Agemaki and Sukeroku of the kabuki plays.

"Oyayubihime Infinity" is going to continue for a while longer. If you'll stick along with us for the next volume, that'd be so great!!

-TORU FUJIEDA

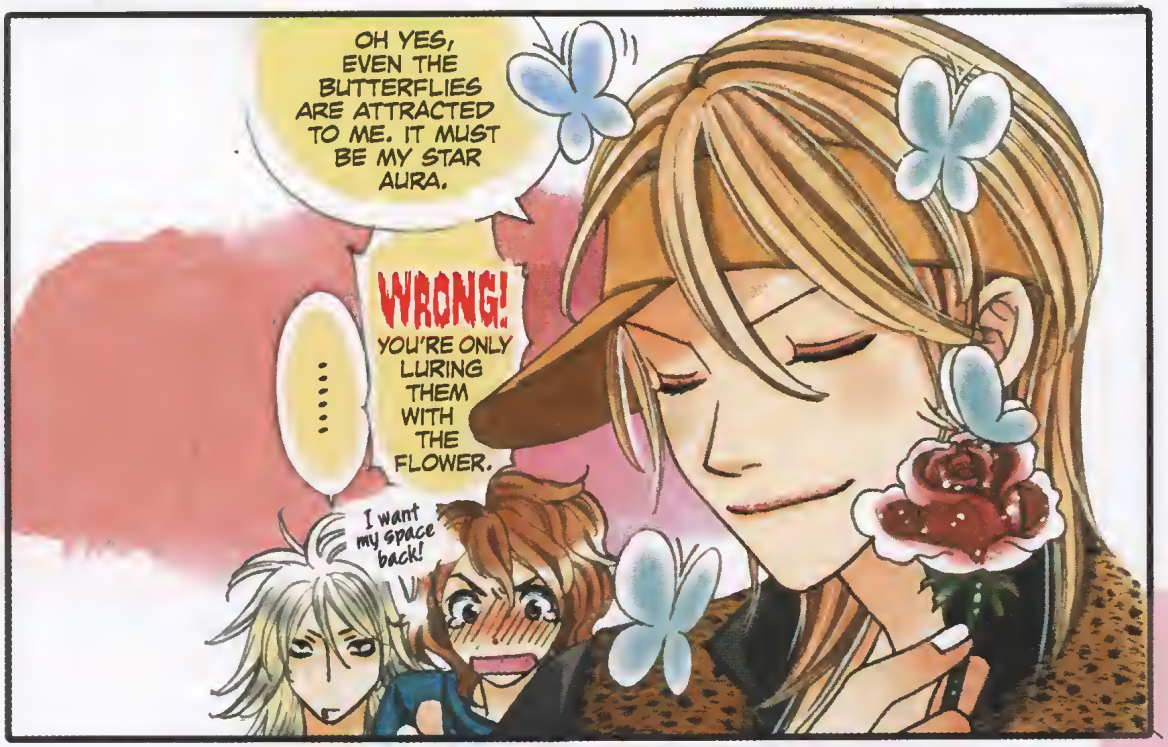
OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY VOL. 3: END.

CAN KANOKO HANDLE THIS NEWFOUND POPULARITY? FIND OUT IN MARCH!



By Toru Fujieda. Now Kanoko has a dual identity crisis, involving both her past life and the present. As the target of all this attention from teen idol Prince Arata (not to mention the fact that the whole world now knows she is Maya's sister) she can't hide in the background any more...and she doesn't like it one bit! If only she could prove who Agemaki's destined mate really is. But when will she find the time?

OYAYUBIHIME INFINITY (OYAYUBIHIME∞) Vol. 4 © 2005 Toru Fujieda/Akitashoten


OH YES, EVEN THE BUTTERFLIES ARE ATTRACTED TO ME. IT MUST BE MY STAR AURA.
WRONG! YOU'RE ONLY LURING THEM WITH THE FLOWER.
.....
I want my space back!

If Kanoko is the reincarnation of Agemaki, then who is her destined lover? It might be Tsuchiya, but he thinks he's fated to be with Maya, Kanoko's sister. Maya's trying to figure out where she stands with Kaneko, a singer from the boy band Splash. Meanwhile, Prince Arata, another member of Splash, only has eyes for Kanoko. And wait till you see her radical makeover!

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